Makati Business Club won't apologize to Palace

Story below, Col. 1

Erap says he was ready to reassume presidency

SABI NA NGA BA AKO PA RIN!

By Armand Nocum

JAILED ex-President Joseph Estrada would have accepted the reported offer of mutinous soldiers to restore him to power had they succeeded in their attempted coup

ERAP/ A16

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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PNP road blocks check troop movements

HUNDREDS of police commandos moved into Camp Crame in Quezon City yesterday as security officials said they were checking reports of unauthorized troop movements after last weekend's uprising by junior military soldiers.

Police set up roadblocks on major roads leading into the capital of 12 million people and put helicopters in the air.

PNP/ A14

Where is Gringo?

THE PRESIDENT at the Palace: Engaged, not in political persecution, but in pursuit of criminal justice against coup plotters.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Hiding to avoid arrest, preparing libel charges

By Christine O.Avendaño and Michael L.Ubac

THE BURNING question of the day is: Where is Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan?

He's not hiding, just staying away from the Senate for now and preparing for an "offensive" against those who are linking him to the Oakwood mutiny last Sunday.

"I'm just avoiding a confrontation that would prejudice the sanctity and integrity of the Senate," Honasan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview Thursday night.

He said that he expects authorities to come up with an investigation that would fabricate evidence against him.

Honasan said he was staying away because he didn't want to involve the Senate in the event he is arrested by authorities, or by "someone who doesn't know the rules, and who is just ordered to go (to the Senate) and who wants to keep his job."

By "offensive," the senator said he is now talking to his lawyers about filing libel and oral defamation cases against officials linking him to the mutiny, primarily Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

"We're now studying filing these libel and oral defamation cases," Honasan told the Inquirer.

On the day of the attempted coup on July 27, Lina was reportedly accusing Honasan of "masterminding" the mutiny. But during the House and Senate hearings on Thursday and Friday, respectively, the interior secretary denied he had tagged the senator as the mastermind and that he had merely said Honasan was involved in the mutiny.

Informed of Lina's testimony in Congress, Honasan said Lina was now "back pedalling."

But at the Senate hearing which convened as a committee of the whole to inquire into the mutiny mounted by junior officers, Lina categorically pinned down Honasan as "a threat to national security."

He also told the Senate that the government was preparing charges against Honasan but the filing has been delayed.

Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda confirmed that Honasan was hiding to avoid arrest.

In an interview over radio dzBB yesterday, Maceda also disclosed that, "Senator Honasan doesn't want to get arrested. That was the exact meaning of his statement."

Maceda claimed he had talked to Honasan over the phone last Wednesday. He said that the senator asked him to take care of his family in case something happened to him.

WHERE/ A14

FILE PHOTO BY VAL HANDUMON

SEN. Gringo Honasan at the height of the July 27 siege in Makati.

GMA met Trillanes on July 13

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AS early as July 13, President Macapagal-Arroyo was on to the gripes of the Magdalo group regarding the alleged complicity of top military officials in the Davao bombings and the sale of military arms and ammunition to enemy groups.

This was disclosed yesterday to reporters by Col. Delfin Bangit, head of the Presidential Security Group, in a press briefing. He said he himself told Ms Macapagal the particulars of the junior officers' complaints.

Bangit said Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV had told him about the gripes

GMA/ A14

ANOTHER MUTINY IN MAKATI?

GMA-business feud simmers: No apology

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Clarissa S. Batino

THE MAKATI Business Club has no plans to apologize to the President and no immediate plans to replace its chair, lawyer Ricardo Romulo. Instead, industrialist Raul T. Concepcion, a director of the MBC, yesterday branded President Macapagal-Arroyo's statements—which disparaged the business community's lack of support and appreciation for her handling of the Oakwood mutiny—as "sweeping and unfair."

The President on Thursday had also criticized Romulo for his "awful statement" that a quick end to the mutiny was not enough. Ms Macapagal then added: "What do you expect from a lawyer of Piatco?"

In an interview with the ABS-CBN network, Romulo, who is also the lead partner in one of the country's largest law firms, had said: "If she thinks we're happy with just the quick resolution, she's wrong."

But Concepcion noted that the business sector had played a key role together with the Catholic Church and civil society in Edsa II, which ousted Joseph Estrada and swept Vice President Macapagal to power.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and

GMA-BUSINESS/ A14

New Isafp chief 'silent operator' runs deep

By TJ Burgonio

MAJ. GEN. Pedro Cabuay, the government's new chief spy, is your typical intelligence officer—quiet and reticent.

Beneath his silent veneer is a wealth of experience in intelligence work and an amazing record for capturing some ranking communist leaders, including Nilo de la Cruz, alleged chief of the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

Last Thursday, Cabuay, who's also a lawyer, was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to replace controversial Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Corpus quit his post last Tuesday after a band of soldiers who mounted a mutiny in Makati City last Sunday called for his ouster for allegedly masterminding the Davao bomb attacks this year.

Cabuay will hold the Isafp position concurrent-

NEW/ A15

MAJ. GEN. Pedro Cabuay, new intelligence chief

JESS YUSON

'State of rebellion could expand to martial law'

By Carlito Pablo and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT may exploit the indefinite state of rebellion to bring about *de facto* or undeclared martial law, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo warned yesterday.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines said the state of rebellion should have a definite time table. Opposition senators plan to question the legality of the declaration before the Supreme Court.

Ocampo, the activist party-list representative, said that because of the safeguards provided by the 1987 Constitution, the government may not resort to a formal declaration of martial law but could extend the state of rebellion and expand the authority of the military and police.

"We are watching the developments closely because they can exploit it to intensify political repression," he said in a phone interview.

STATE/ A15

6 mutineers only a minute away from House

By Christine O. Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

THE SIX junior officers who had led the Oakwood mutiny were only a minute away from the House of Representatives on Thursday when they were ordered to return to Camp Aguinaldo, one of their lawyers said yesterday.

After first denying that the officers were already in transit that day, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya admitted during the first day of the Senate investigation into the failed coup that the mutiny leaders were in fact already on their way to Congress when they were ordered back.

Abaya said he gave the return order after learning that the leaders of the Magdalo group, being transported in a mini-van from their detention center at the Intelligence Service of the AFP, were already in the vicinity of the Tandang Sora area in Quezon City—only about four kilometers away from the House, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara pointed out.

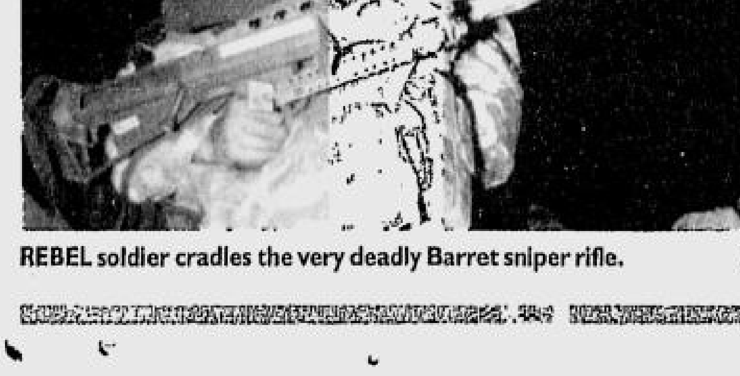
Abaya said he had not cleared the transfer. He explained that the night before the House hearing, he and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez had decided against allowing the mutiny leaders to testify before Congress because of "grave" security considerations.

Abaya initially said the officers were not able to leave the military camp, but under Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta's questioning, corrected himself. After conferring with his staff, he disclosed that the mutineers were in fact already in transit.

Abaya later told reporters that what happened was an "honest mistake."

The mutiny leaders did not attend yesterday's Senate hearing, either. The Sen-

6 MUTINEERS/ A14



REBEL soldier cradles the very deadly Barret sniper rifle. AP

Palace bares rebel plot to kill President

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday said the July 27 mutiny by junior officers included a plot to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Col. Delfin Bangit, commander of the Presidential Security Group, said it received reports during the tense week last week that the rebel soldiers who had deserted their units had taken weapons with them, including some that could only be used for assassination.

Bangit said the PSG was again on red alert "based on our operational requirement."

Earlier in the day, Interior Secretary Jose Lina spoke on national TV of such a plot. "The assassination has been the subject of an intelligence report, not only of the President but [also] of some other personalities, but we did not deem it wise to make that public," he said.

Lina added that the intelligence report had yet to be validated but the government had the situation under control.

The President's chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao also confirmed the assassination plot in a letter containing a rejoinder to INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila.

Tiglao disputed Doronila's critical assessment of Ms Macapagal's handling of the mutiny.

PALACE/ A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/02/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

321 mutineers charged

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE 321 YOUNG soldiers who mutinied on Sunday were charged yesterday with the crime of coup d'etat before the Makati Regional Trial Court.

"After a careful evaluation of the uncontroverted evidence on record, we find that probable cause exists to warrant the indictment of respondents for the crime of coup d'etat defined under (the Revised Penal Code)," said the Department of Justice in an 11-page resolution.

Among those charged were Navy Lieutenants senior grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, Marine Capt. Garry Alejano, and Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo.

In all, the respondents included 33 officers and 91 enlisted personnel from the Army, 12 officers from the Air Force, 31 officers and 55 enlisted men from the Navy, and 22 officers and 77 enlisted personnel from the Marines.

The DOJ recommended no bail for the mutineers. Their lawyers, however, accused the government of "railroading" the case.

"Beyond doubt, respondents who are officers and enlisted men of the AFP launched a swift attack against the government by taking control of the Ayala Center, Makati, by means of stealth, strategy, force, intimidation and threat," said the resolution by the eight-man DOJ panel of prosecutors.

Railroaded

The charges came a day after the National Bureau of Investigation filed a complaint before the DOJ against the mutineers.

But Argee Guevarra, a lawyer for the mutineers, said the government was railroading the charges, after the officers had asked for a preliminary investigation which the DOJ dismissed.

"The DOJ is trying to short-circuit the legal process. It is trying to deny our clients their right to due process," Guevarra said.

Guevarra said 15 government lawyers, led by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, went to Camp Aguinaldo on Thursday night and instituted inquest proceedings against the rebel soldiers over their lawyers' objections.

Guevarra said they told the prosecutors they wanted a preliminary investigation and 15 days for the rebels to prepare their legal defense.

But the rebel soldiers had refused to sign the waiver of detention, which would have made it mandatory for the DOJ to conduct a preliminary investigation.

The waiver removes any liability on the part of the government for the continued detention of a suspect even without charges being filed.

Guevarra said the rebel officers did not sign the waiver because they were already under detention. The mutineers are also facing court martial proceedings.

"Under the law, we have the right to a preliminary investigation so we manifested our vigorous objection. They are really violating the law. *Minamadali talaga*(They are rushing things.)," he said.

Two opposition lawmakers yesterday warned the military officers charged with the crime of coup d'etat were in danger of suffering double jeopardy.

Representatives Didagen Dilangalen (Pwersa ng Masa) and Abraham Mitra (LDP, Palawan) said the soldiers were facing charges before civilian and military courts.

Aside from the charges before the DOJ, the same officers are facing court martial for violation of the Articles of War.

Dilangalen said the government must choose which court—civilian or military—would try the soldiers.

Mitra said, "There should be only one forum and I prefer the DOJ."

Eki's condition

In a related development, PNP doctors were contemplating moving the lone civilian suspect arrested in the uprising, Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, to a hospital outside Camp Crame due to his worsening condition.

Cardenas' blood pressure remained "very unstable" as of yesterday, according to a doctor at the PNP General Hospital in Camp Crame where the former Estrada administration official is being held.

The doctor feared Cardenas could suffer a stroke if his blood pressure suddenly shot up.

"Right now we're in a wait-and-see situation, hoping his condition would soon improve," he said.

Cardenas, deputy executive secretary during the Estrada administration, is the first political leader to be charged in connection with the failed rebellion last Sunday.

He was arrested after guns, ammunition and subversive documents purportedly belonging to the rebel soldiers were found in his house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati last Monday. *With Carlito Pablo and Christian V. Esguerra*

No witch-hunt in AFP, says Southcom chief

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko yesterday said the military was not in a witch-hunting mood even though it was certain some soldiers supportive of the failed coup d'etat last Sunday are still on the loose.

He said the military leadership was still trying to find out why some soldiers and officers who went on leave before the mutiny failed to return to their base even after the coup try was foiled.

At least 26 young officers detailed at the Southcom headquarters went on leave before renegade soldiers occupied the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati last Sunday. Seven of them turned out to be involved in the mutiny.

Kyamko said other military commanders in Mindanao were also directed to find out if some of their men went on leave as the crisis developed. "The mere act of asking to which (Philippine Military Academy) class (the officers and soldiers) belonged or in which units the Magdalo soldiers serve tend to be taken with a different meaning and color," said the Army officer who asked not to be named.

The officer clarified that the term "witch-hunting" was not actually being used but the queries on whether the soldiers were sympathetic or had connections with any of the Magdalo group, the name by which the renegade soldiers styled themselves, have started to cause unease.

In Malolos City, police are guarding major transport routes in Bulacan to prevent another group of suspected rebel soldiers from Northern Luzon and Central Luzon provinces from entering Metro Manila.

Supt. Mario de la Vega, head of the 306th provincial mobile group in San Rafael, Bulacan, said his troops has been monitoring another group of soldiers allied with the Magdalo group.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), said no one of the 10,000 troops assigned in his area—Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera and Central Luzon—was conspiring with the Magdalo group.

He gave this assessment even as he confirmed that many members of the PMA Marilag Class of 1995, to which some of the coup leaders belonged, were assigned to the Nolcom region.

"I don't see any indications that anyone is breaking ranks or showing indications that they are not anymore following the chain of command," he said.

Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Julie S. Alipala, Nash B. Maulana and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

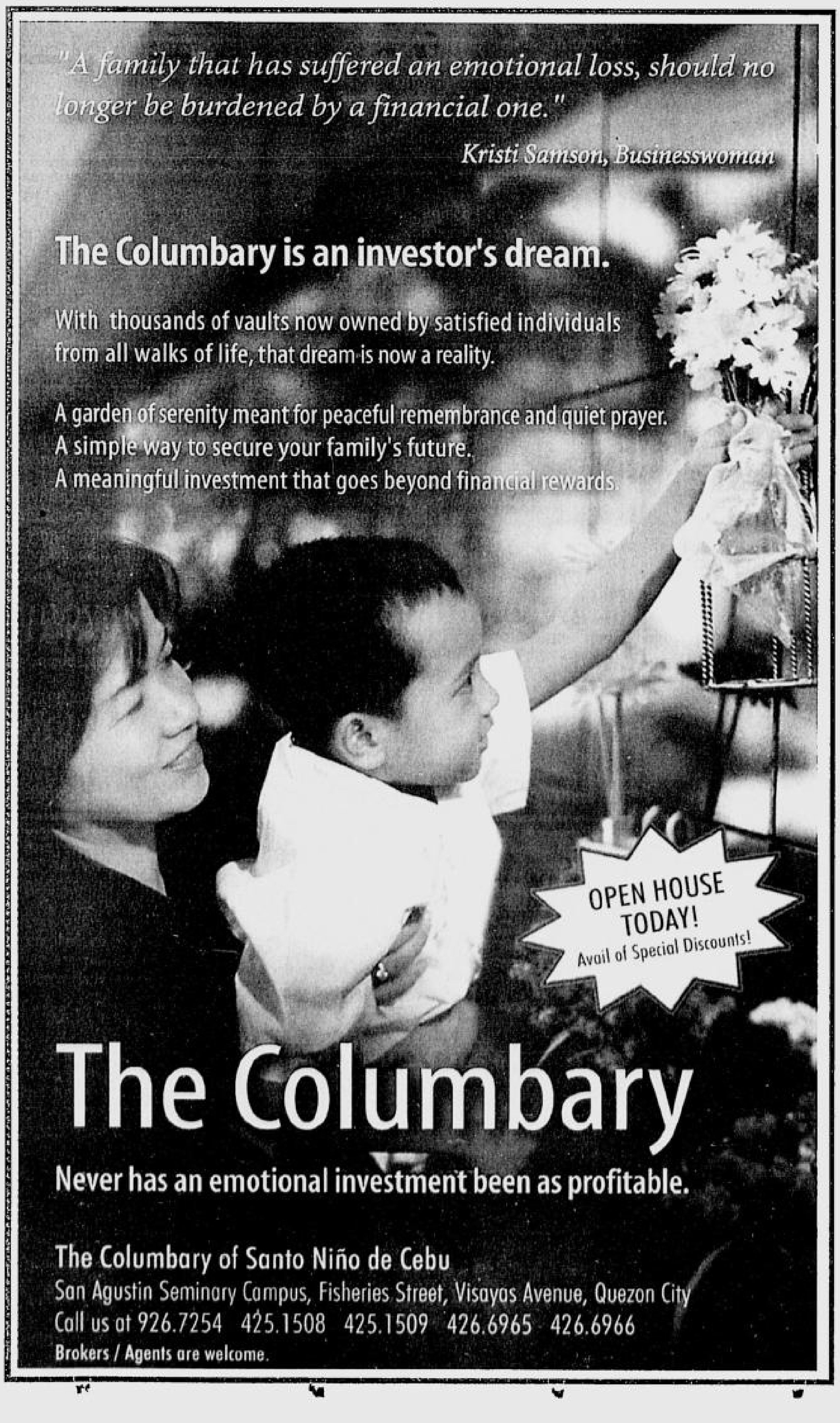
Pinoy in Papua is 1st absentee voter

By Gerald Lacuarta

A FILIPINO who had been working in Papua New Guinea in the last 23 years has earned the distinction of being the first to register as an absentee voter in the 2004 elections.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the first registrant, Generoso Olaes Cabael, 59, who came in to register at the embassy in Port Moresby at exactly 8 a.m. as the month-long absentee voting registration began yesterday.

The Philippine Embassy in Papua New Guinea said Cabael has been working in Port Moresby for the past 23 years as a mechanical service manager in an engineering company.



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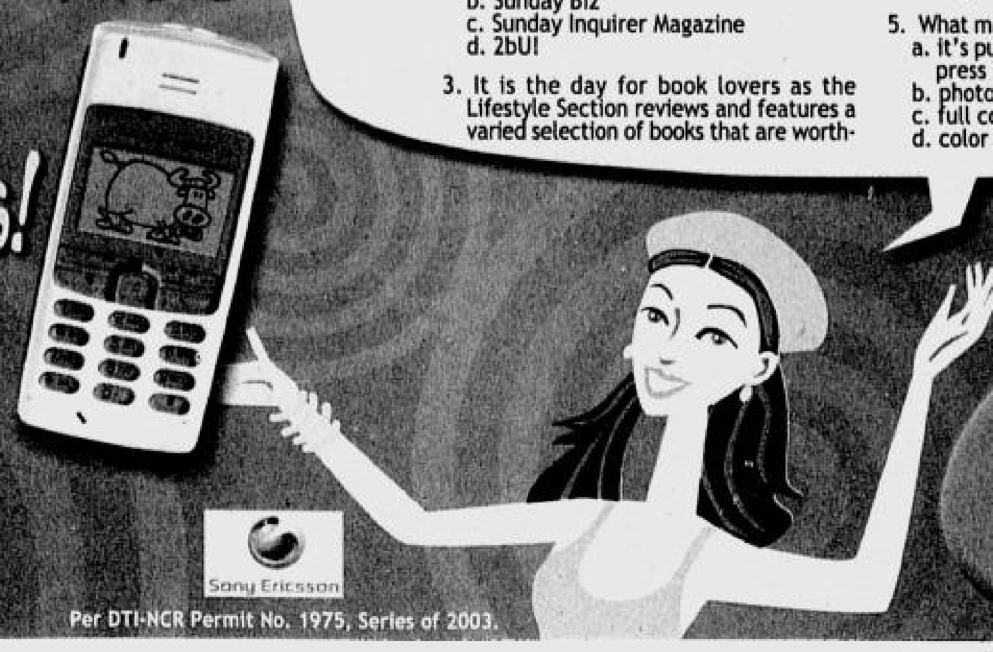

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1. Which popular restaurant was inspired by a Tom Hanks movie?
   a. TGI Friday's c. Tequila Joe's
   b. Bubba Gump d. Grilla
2. This Sunday section features the lives of top CEOs that aims to inspire entrepreneurs to achieve similar success.
   a. Trends n' Trendings
   b. Sunday Biz
   c. Sunday Inquirer Magazine
   d. 2bU!
3. It is the day for book lovers as the Lifestyle Section reviews and features a varied selection of books that are worth-reading for people with different interests.
   a. Monday c. Wednesday
   b. Tuesday d. Thursday
4. How many copies of Inquirer Libre are circulated daily?
   a. 80,000 c. 90,000
   b. 85,000 d. 115,000
5. What makes Inquirer front page unique?
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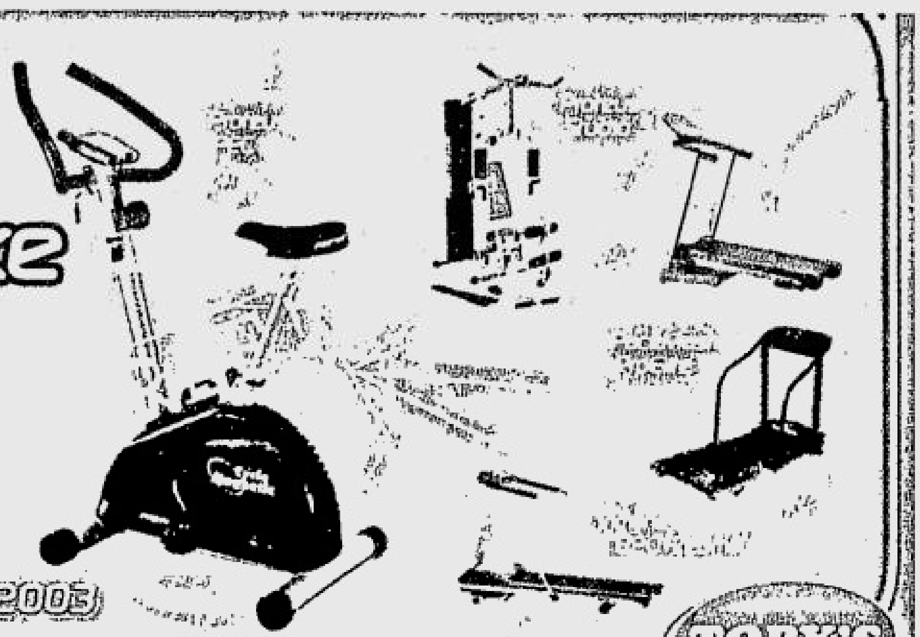

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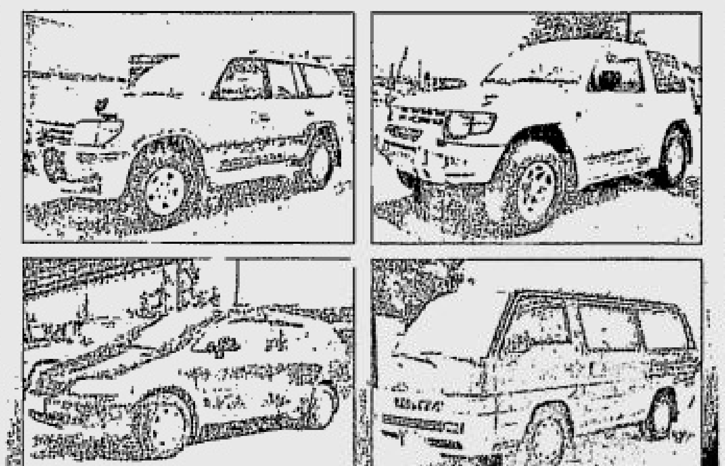

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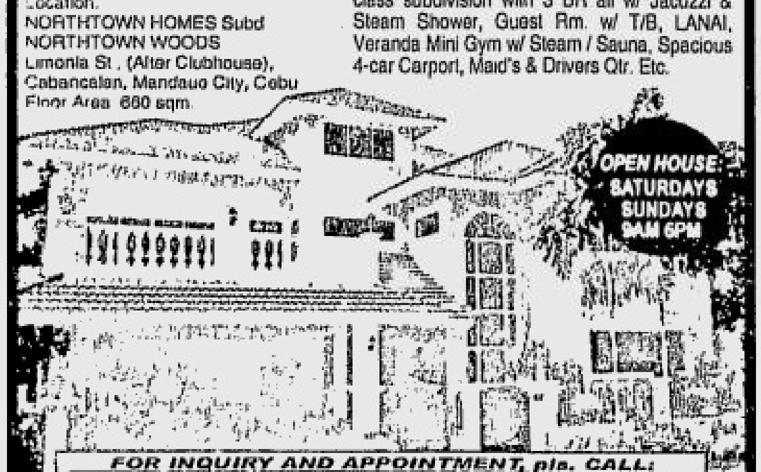

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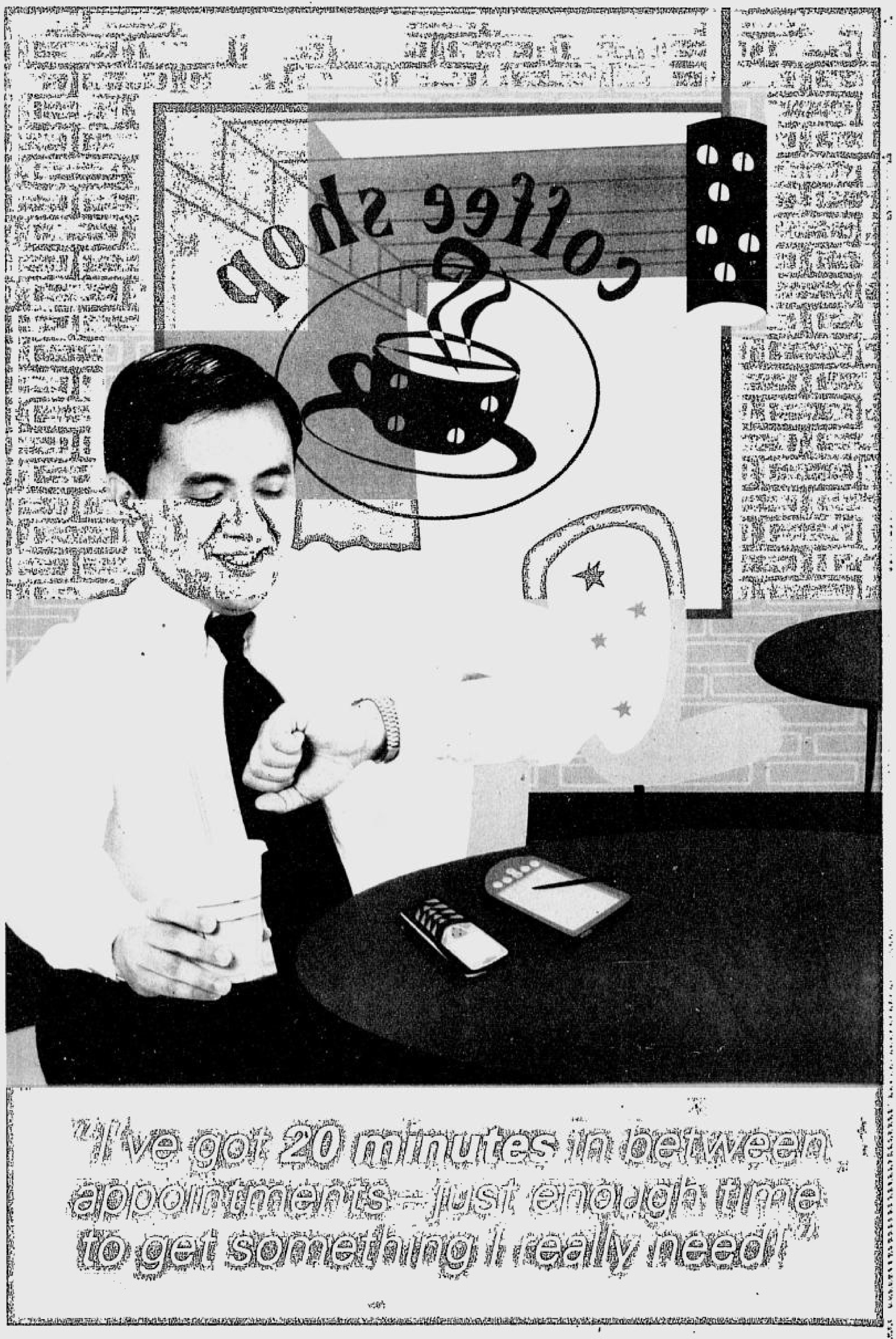

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Al-Ghozi sighted in Davao but gives raiders the slip

DAVAO CITY—Police raided a house in a slum area on the outskirts of this city Friday in search of escaped terrorist bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi but they failed to find him.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña told the INQUIRER "very reliable" sources had informed authorities about Al-Ghozi's presence in Barangay Buhisan in the coastal district of Tibungco, some 20 kilometers from this city.

Al-Ghozi, Lapeña said, was reported to be in the company of several armed men led by a Jemlani Adamin.

"We won't say it was a false alarm since the report came from reliable sources," he said.

Lapeña said the suspects may have managed to leave the area on motorized pump boats as the police were arriving.

Al-Ghozi has continued to elude authorities since his escape on July 14 from his detention cell at national police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City. He took along with him two members of the Abu Sayyaf terror group when he fled.

The escape greatly embarrassed the Macapagal administration which was hosting Australian Prime Minister John Howard at the time. Howard and Macapagal were discussing anti-terrorism cooperation between their two countries.

Al-Ghozi, an Indonesian, is a self-confessed member of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiya regional terror group. He was convicted by a Philippine court for possession of explosives and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

He also confessed to planting bombs around Metro Manila in December 2000 which killed at least 22 people. He has yet to be tried for this offense.

The Bureau of Immigration here said all ports in southern Mindanao have been put on red alert.

Rolton Norico, officer in charge of the BI regional office, said immigration officers have been ordered to strictly monitor all vessels entering and leaving the region.

"We are checking the passengers and even the crew of the vessels. We want to make sure Al-Ghozi cannot get in or out," Norico said.

Police had earlier mounted an operation to recapture Al-Ghozi in General Santos City but he was not found.

On yesterday's operation, Lapeña told The Associated Press, "We received the report the other day, so we conducted the operation (to catch him) yesterday but the operation has not yielded positive results."

AL-GHOZI

The government has offered a P10 million reward for Al-Ghozi's arrest. *Dennis Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP, AFP*

Some cops out to silence Indon fugitive–Ebdane

By Christian V. Esguerra

IS THERE a faction within the Philippine National Police out to recapture—and kill—Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf members who managed to escape from Camp Crame?

A ranking police officer involved in the hunt for the three is convinced there is.

Even PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane, the source said, is wary that Al-Ghozi, Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal could fall into the hands of these policemen.

"We are concerned these officers will kill the fugitives to silence them," the officer told the INQUIRER.

The source said Ebdane wants to get Al-Ghozi, Edris and Lasal alive so they could reveal which PNP officials facilitated their escape on July 14.

The closest the PNP got to identifying a police suspect was when Supt. Reuben Galban, chief of the Intelligence Group's Foreign Intelligence and Liaison Office, was tagged as the owner of a Toyota Revo seen near the detention cells at the time of the escape.

But Galban's vehicle did not yield any fingerprints of any of the escapees.

"The findings suggested they did not use Galban's car to escape," a highly placed source in the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group told the Inquirer.

"We're now looking for another vehicle Al-Ghozi and the Abu Sayyaf members may have used to escape," the source added.

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RP too Catholic, says 'Pink Pope'

By Blanche S. Rivera

EVEN the Pope finds the Philippines too Catholic—the Pink Pope, that is.

Kursad Kahramanoglu, international officer and co-secretary general of the International Lesbians and Gays Association (ILGA), said yesterday he had never been to a Catholic country that seemed to have the head of the Catholic church as its "No. 3 man."

Kahramanoglu, known internationally as the "Pink Pope," is in the country to study the viability of holding the 22nd World Gay and Lesbian Conference in Manila in November.

"It's been very clear that the Philippines is not just a Catholic country—it's a very Catholic country," said Kahramanoglu yesterday at a press briefing at the Hotel Miramar, where the Department of Health is holding a forum on health services for the sexual minorities in the Philippines.

Kahramanoglu said he was also trying to understand the attitude of the local media, which "asks the President, sometimes the Vice President, and immediately the Catholic head" about the most important issues concerning the country.

He cited the Makati mutiny last Sunday, where some 300 disgruntled young military officers broke ranks to decry corruption in the armed forces and the government.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin immediately issued a pastoral letter asking the faithful to help defend the government and democracy.

KAHRAMANOGLU

Two days later, after the rebellion had been quelled, Sin celebrated a thanksgiving Mass—attended by the President and her Cabinet—for the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"I've been to Spain, France and Italy, which are Catholic countries, but it's a little different in the Philippines. Obviously, they [Filipino clergy] have a very special place in the daily running of the country," Kahramanoglu said.

The Pink Pope said the political as well as the peace and order problems of the country would be factors in the ILGA's decision to hold its conference here.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines issued the other day a statement urging Congress to junk bills on same-sex unions and other proposals that go against Church teachings.

Doy gets travel extension

By Armand N. Nocum

THE FIFTH Division of the Sandiganbayan yesterday granted the travel extension sought by former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel, who is facing graft charges before the anti-graft court.

Meanwhile, the court also granted the request of Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez to be given 15 days within which to file his comment on the suspension motion filed by the prosecution.

Laurel, who left for the US on June 28, wants his trip extended until Aug. 15 for him to have further tests. Initial test at the Stanford Hospital and Clinics indicate a "certain type of lymphoma."

Laurel's lawyers, Leon Asa and Jose Oliveros, said Laurel wants to get a second opinion from Dr. Joseph Connors, who heads the Lymphoma Tumor Group of the British Columbia Cancer Agency in Canada.

The prosecution did not object to the motion, considering the fact that Laurel is in the US and his request for medical needs was valid.

Laurel faces a graft charges in connection with the P9.6 billion Centennial Expo Scam. The former head of the National Centennial Commission is accused of unilaterally increasing the budget of the amphitheater from P248 million to P1.165 billion in the 1998 Centennial Expo.

The court also gave Soriquez a 15-day extension after his lawyer said that they received the prosecution's motion to suspend Soriquez only last Thursday.

Soriquez is also facing graft charges, along with several public works officials, for the construction in 1996 of the Pasig-Potrero portion of the megadike, which eventually collapsed.

Gov't wants Erap back in Laguna cell

By Armand N. Nocum

SPECIAL PROSECUTORS are considering having ousted President Estrada returned to his previous jail cell in Sta. Rosa, Laguna in view of the continuing threats of coup.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio revealed this plan although Estrada has offered to withdraw his lawyer's motion to cite Police chief Dir. Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane and Supt. Prospero Noble for contempt for transferring Estrada to Camp Aguinaldo in last Sunday's failed coup.

In an interview following a hearing on the motion of Estrada's lawyer Alan Paguia, Villa-Ignacio said they have realized that the Sta. Rosa facility remains the safest place for the former President.

During the hearing, Chief Supt. Doroteo Reyes, head of the legal department of the Philippine National Police, had said that Estrada is safest in Sta. Rosa, where no transfer would be needed in case of a coup.

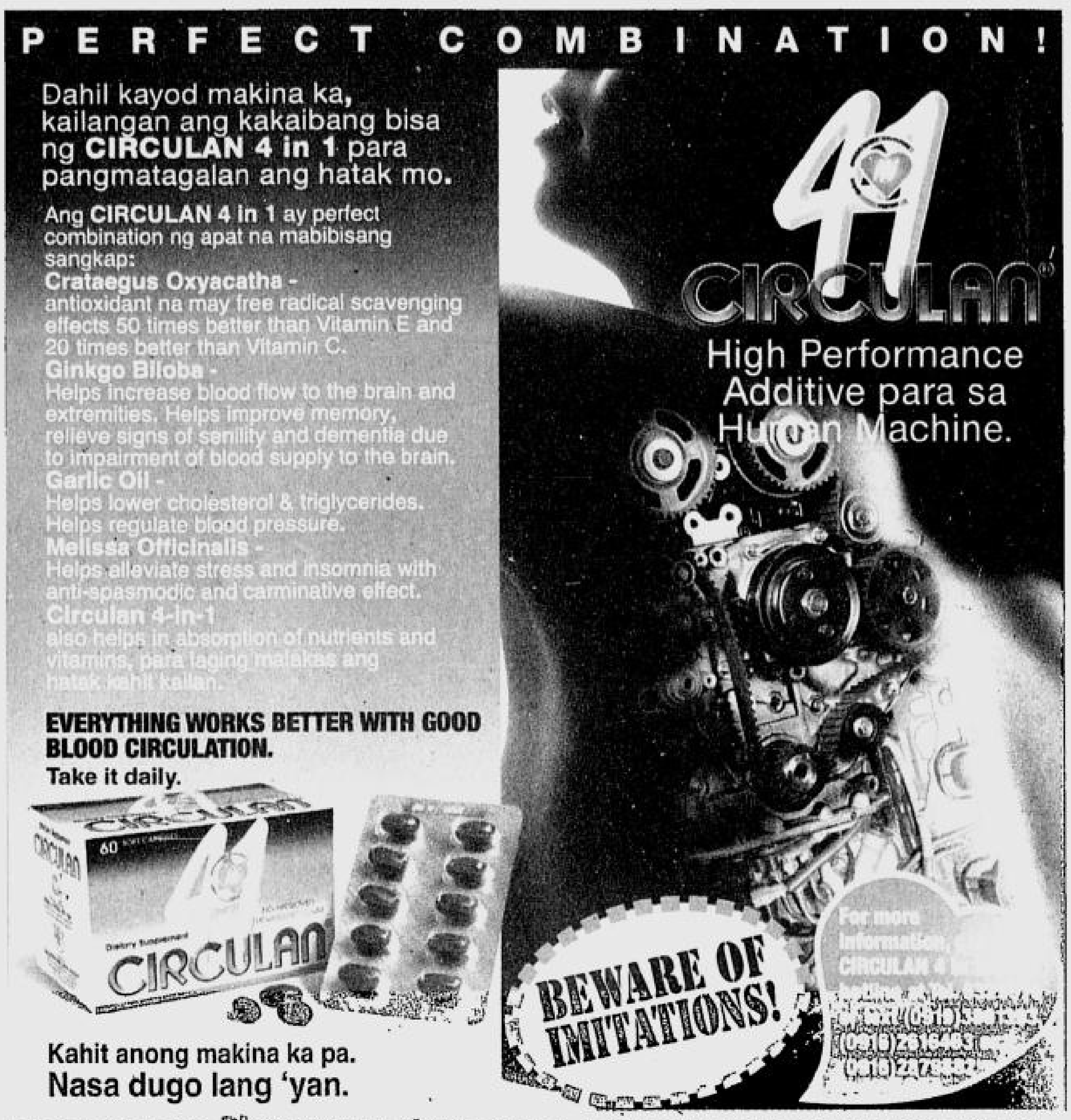
Reyes, who represented Ebdane in the hearing, was justifying Estrada's transfer sans a court order last Sunday.

Asked what would happen to former Moro National Liberation Front Chair Nur Misuari, who now occupies the Sta. Rosa detention facility, Villa-Ignacio said, "They might get along there." It was Estrada who ordered Misuari jailed when the latter attempted to lead an armed uprising in Sulu.

Asked to comment on the plan, Estrada said he would leave it all to God. But he said his lawyers would oppose the move. "Why will they bring me there, I've stayed long at the VMMC (Veterans Medical Memorial Center). I should even be only in house arrest."

Reyes said they transferred Estrada in view of the imminent danger to his life. Estrada surprised the Sandiganbayan justices and the special prosecutors when he said that he was no longer interested in pursuing the motion to cite Noble and Ebdane for contempt. Villa-Ignacio reacted strongly to the move, asking that Paguia be sanctioned for wasting the time of the court and taxpayers' money arising from Estrada's transfer.

Estrada's car was escorted by policemen in full battle gear from the Veterans hospital to Camp Aguinaldo and back at the height of the Oakwook standoff on Sunday.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NBI still sees Acsa as suspect in tax scam

By Leila Salaverria

DESPITE being cleared by the Ombudsman of her involvement in the P431 million LandBank tax diversion scam, the National Bureau of Investigation still considers whistleblower Acsa Ramirez a suspect.

This is because the NBI has appealed the Ombudsman's decision, said Elfren Meneses, head of the Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division.

"Her case and those of the others are still pending at the Department of Justice," he told reporters.

The NBI has filed a motion for reconsideration at the Ombudsman after it cleared Ramirez of involvement in the tax diversion scam. Meneses added that the bureau had also gathered additional evidence in the tax diversion case.

In February this year, Ramirez, a cashier at LandBank's Binangonan branch, was cleared of charges of failing to disclose suspicious accounts exceeding P4 million to the Anti-Money Laundering Council as required.

Charged along with her were her predecessor Ramon Joven and Branch Manager Artemio San Juan.

The Ombudsman upheld Ramirez's defense that it was she who exposed the scam by reporting the presence of an account opened with a P26 billion check.

It was Ramirez who alerted authorities of the presence of the suspicious accounts and had been invited to the NBI to give her statement.

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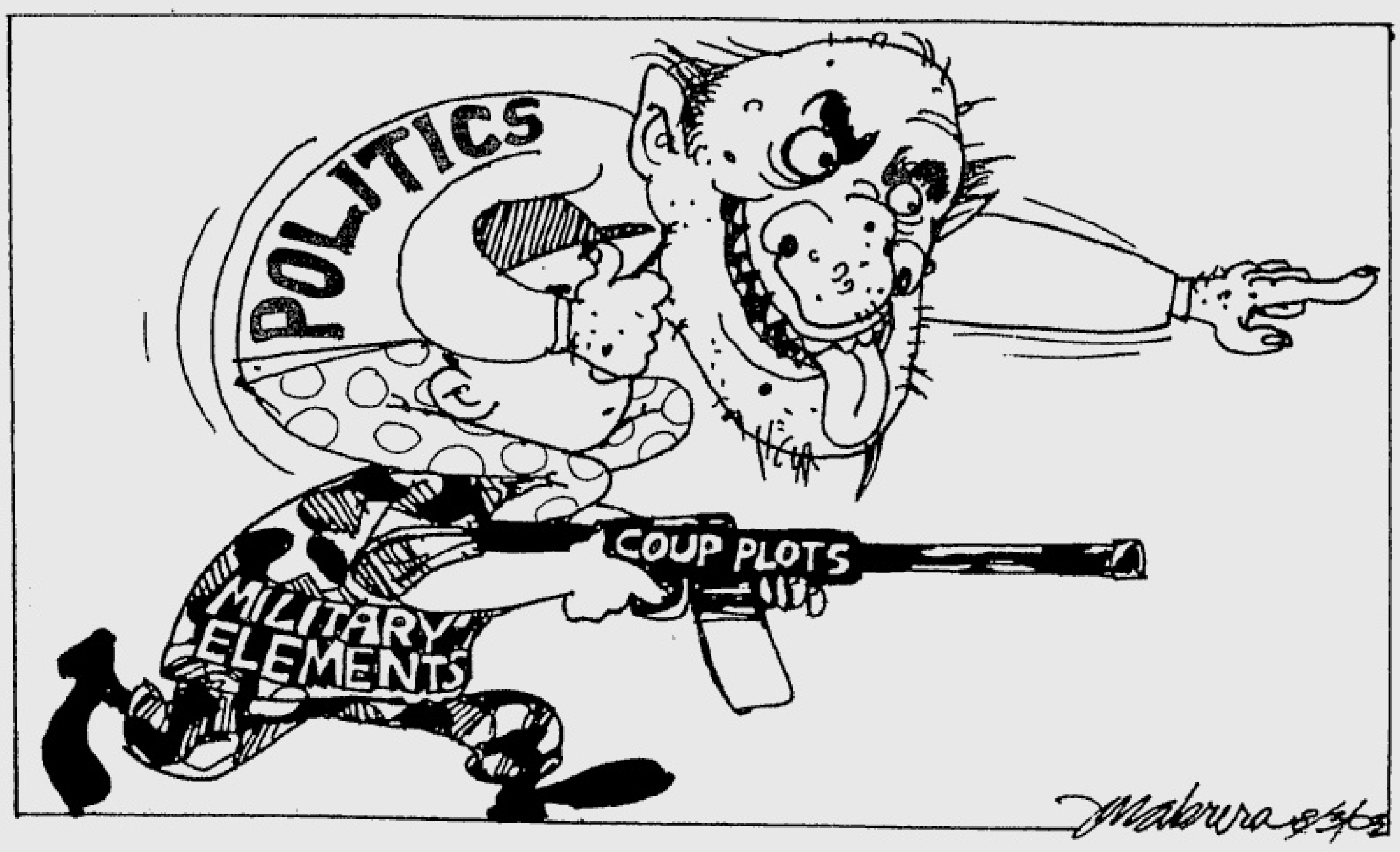


EDITORIALS

Once a putschist . . .

SEN. Gregorio Honasan quickly sought sanctuary in the Senate after Interior Secretary Jose Lina accused him of being behind the failed coup attempt of July 27, mounted by a group of junior military officers. Wrapping himself in the protective mantle of the privilege speech, Honasan denied the accusation but did not conceal the fact that his sympathies were with the rebels by extolling them for expressing their grievances (although in illegal ways) and acting to "liberate our people from an abusive government."

In an abuse of parliamentary freedom and privilege, Honasan not only defended himself but also delivered an inflammatory speech. In that speech, he presented himself as a hero in the crisis by claiming President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked him to persuade the rebels to end their occupation of Oakwood. His self-serving speech suggested that it was his intervention that prevented the mutiny from turning into a bloody encounter.

This posturing as a savior of the country is vintage Honasan. But his false claim was quickly denied by administration officials, who said it was Honasan who offered to talk with the rebels "to save his neck," after it became clear that the attempt to grab power was fizzling out.

In his speech, Honasan assured the Senate that after his exposure in the legislature, he had been "rehabilitated" and purged of his coup tendencies. Engaging in "extra-constitutional exercise is a thing of the past," he said.

But this is not the first time since Honasan became a senator that he has been linked to a power grab. He was also tagged as one of the main agitators of the mob that laid siege to Malacañang on May 1, 2001. He went into hiding after he got wind that the government was preparing rebellion charges against him. He promised to surrender and was never arrested. And he was coddled by his colleagues, with then Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. assuring him that he would only be placed under Senate custody.

This time around, Senate President Franklin Drilon said that under the law, Honasan cannot be arrested without a warrant of arrest issued by the courts.

Honasan's claim that he has been "rehabilitated" from his putschist tendencies by his engagement in legislative work does not wash. He has been linked to every coup conspiracy from the time of President Marcos. He fled after the failed 1989 coup which nearly toppled the government of President Aquino. And he rejoined the political mainstream only after taking advantage of the amnesty offered by Aquino's successor, President Fidel V. Ramos.

Honasan's success in avoiding punishment for leading a series of power grabs has been facilitated by his manipulation of the leniency of the democratic system which allowed him to enter parliamentary politics. But that milieu has not mellowed his passion for military adventurism; it has merely provided him virtual immunity from punishment. He remains out of place in parliamentary politics, whose democratic processes are at odds with his proclivity for the undemocratic method of seizing power by force of arms.

A rare statesman

FEW Filipino leaders deserve the epitaph of "statesman" more than former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez. He served his country with distinction in Congress and the Senate, and in the executive department and as a diplomat, as Philippine ambassador to Washington. In his long service to the Republic, his integrity was never blemished by scandal.

Some would like to remember Pelaez as a survivor of the 1981 assassination attempt as he sought to defend coconut farmers against the imposition of the coconut levy by the martial law regime of then President Marcos. Up to now, the identities of those who were responsible for the assassination attempt remain unknown.

Against this background, it is easy to forget that Pelaez could have been president. But he lost the Nacionalista Party nomination to Ferdinand Marcos because he never allowed his supporters to match Marcos' spending and buying of delegates. Pelaez had such firm a commitment to keeping the integrity of the democratic process that he refused to play the game Marcos played. Pelaez, the true democrat, paid a heavy price for his conviction. Had he won, the history of our nation would have taken a different course.

The Oakwood affair

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

BY THE TIME this article goes into print, the failed Oakwood affair will have become as dead as a doornail, to be interred in the Land of Forgotten Trivia. Our people have short memories of important historic events, like the atrocities of martial rule and the nobility of Edsa I.

Let us hope, though, that Navy Lt. Antonio F. Trillanes IV and his reckless Band of Brothers will be properly punished for their defiance of the constituted government. As members of the armed forces, they knew what they were going into, including the consequences of their aborted bravado. They should now be prepared to face their condign discipline.

Their penalty should not consist of the mild reproof administered by past administrations, like the absurd 100 push-ups required of the rebels who threatened the Aquino government and severely impaired the national economy. Such leniency reflected even then the hesitation of the civil government to antagonize the military.

This is the time for the government under President Macapagal-Arroyo to show that "civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military." This is the time to show that her government is not afraid of the military despite its superior physical strength. This is the time to put an end to the coddling of the AFP for fear that it will remove and replace the civil authorities with a military junta.

That apprehension is obvious from the growing militarization of our government with the appointment of military persons to civilian positions. Retired generals are preferred to civilians with more competence but less intimidation. The criterion for appointment to the Cabinet used to be political muscle but now it is military credentials. The apparent reason for coddling the soldiers is to ensure their loyalty to the civilian authorities and dissuade them from taking over the reins of power.

This current subservience of the civilian government to the military did not mar the administrations of past presidents from Manuel L. Quezon to Diosdado Macapagal. It was only during the reign of Marcos, who enchained the people with the help of the armed forces, that the ugly transition began.

With the proclamation of martial law in 1972, even sergeants began strutting like generals. Generals became more powerful than the Batasang Pambansa and the Supreme Court. Human rights were desecrated and their perpetrators were protected and even rewarded. Marcos and the military conspired with each other for their mutual advantage during their tyrannical partnership.

Like a hangover from the deposed despotism, the armed forces continue to be wooed and accommodated by Malacañang. Military men are still being chosen for civilian positions designed to be filled by non-military persons. The defense department is headed by a retired general, and so are other offices in the Cabinet that are better filled by civilian appointees.

Despite accusations that the failed mutiny was secretly directed and funded by politicians close to Erap, the complaints of the rebels deserve a fair hearing. Lieutenant Trillanes' charges, as summarized in this paper from his masteral thesis, appear valid on their face and establish a prima facie case against the Philippine Navy.

President Macapagal has acted correctly in not dismissing the denunciations out of hand. By ordering their investigation instead, she is asserting the supremacy of the civilian authority over the military as ordained by the Constitution.

The military has threatened the civilian authority long enough, and it is time to put it in its proper place under the control of the civilian commander in chief. Let us not suffer the fate of the people of Burma who are ruled by a self-appointed military body or of many African nations under the heel of military usurpers who have seized power by force of arms.

The effort to demilitarize our government should begin with the replacement of Secretary Angelo Reyes by a civilian as head of the Department of National Defense. Reyes has held this office since 2001 and has not shown any significant improvement in the morale or record of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He had earlier led it during the Erap years and was among the last *seguristas* to defect to the Macapagal camp hours before his former chief's downfall.

Reyes' current television commercial is not doing him any good either in his obvious campaign for electoral office next year. If at all, it has succeeded only in suggesting that he is more preoccupied with his senatorial campaign than with the capture of the Abu Sayyaf and the investigation of the anomalies in the AFP.

Let us punish the Trillanes group, by all means, but let us also call to account those who, by their neglect or collusion, have brought about or covered up the serious irregularities that triggered that daring but doomed defiance of the government by the young soldiers. The idealism and courage of the reckless Band of Brothers might be a mitigating circumstance, but the cynicism and dishonesty of their superiors should aggravate their own penalty.

Spoiled brats

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

ALL this talk about the legitimate grievances of the Trillanes group, of their sincerity and earnestness, of their idealism and desire to reform society, which are then used as an excuse for or to mitigate the gravity of their actions, leaves me stone cold. Sure, they articulated legitimate grievances. But these are the grievances of thousands, even millions, of Filipinos, who are also sincere and earnest, idealistic and desirous of reforming society.

So why should Trillanes and his ilk be lionized? It isn't even sure that their actions were inspired solely by idealism, given the P30-million price tag that was placed on their operations, including costs of transportation and billeting for officers (rooms at Oakwood, where a few officers had checked in at $115 a day at least) and men, not to mention the new uniforms, imported back-packs, Velcro arm bands, and state-of-the-art communications equipment that were definitely not military-issue. Add to that the massing of small groups of protesters and a few members of the Guardians brotherhood in the Makati area, complete with their banners, supposedly even before the rest of the Trillanes group converged on Oakwood.

If anything, in my book, Trillanes and company behaved more like spoiled brats going into a tantrum because they couldn't have what they wanted just exactly when they wanted it. Definitely not the behavior of officers and gentlemen they claim to be by virtue of a PMA education which, by the way, was all paid for (including uniforms) by Juan and Juana de la Cruz, to the tune of P514 million for 2003. The PMA's motto is courage, integrity and loyalty to country. Where is the integrity, loyalty and courage in sneaking into Oakwood, apparently ready to use firearms and bombs paid for by the Filipino people against them?

No one doubts that there is corruption in the military, as there is corruption everywhere. The Trillanes group's charges include not only corruption, but treason—selling arms and equipment to the enemy. Question: What makes them think that what they say must be taken on faith by the Filipino people, just because what they say is obeyed without question by their subordinates? Does that mean that they think the Filipino people are also their subordinates? Question: What makes them think that they are exempt from the requirements of due process? In other words, what makes them think they are so special? Or more to the point, what makes some of us think they are so special?

In the same vein, the Trillanes group is also being lionized because of their stated willingness to die—the ultimate sacrifice—for their cause. Again, that leaves me cold. If they were willing to die, why were they armed to the teeth? It certainly looked like they were more willing for others to die, what with the bombs and all.

Seriously, though, unless they are stupid (but it has been claimed that they are brilliant) they must have studied the experience of the past coup attempts, and learned that the leaders got away, quite literally, with murder. Not one coup plotter died. The ones who died were the men under their command and civilians. Not only did they emerge unscathed from the experience, they profited from it—the resulting publicity launched political and other lucrative careers. So unless they are stupid, they must have known from the beginning that the probability of them and their careers being harmed was close to zero—and their ready-to-die statements were made simply for dramatic effect. Why should we fall for it?

And while we're at it, it should be pointed out to Trillanes that his much-admired National Recovery Program (NRP), that he speaks of so highly, is really nothing but a hodgepodge of motherhood statements (e.g., "eradicate bureaucratic corruption," "cleansing of the judiciary"), wishful thinking ("spearhead the forging of a coalition of Third World countries within the WTO to protect the interests of developing countries"), potentially counterproductive solutions ("protection and rehabilitation of dying industries"). The valid "solutions" contained therein, it should be further pointed out to Trillanes, are already being implemented, because they are part and parcel of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP)—e.g., employment generation, computerization of the BIR and BOC, Minimum Basic Needs Strategy, immediate implementation of the Procurement Reform Act.

The only "solutions" in the NRP that are not in the MTPDP, in addition to those that are either not feasible or are counterproductive, have to do with such reforms as the retirement of all officers with the rank of brigadier general/commodore/chief superintendent and up and the reabsorption of the PNP into the AFP (which militarizes the police again, as in the Marcos dictatorship) and the sacking of all high-level officers of the BIR and BOC, which smack of a shoot-first-ask-questions-later type of action.

It is the height of irony that the NRP of which Trillanes is so enamored, states early on that "we cannot develop as a nation as long as lawlessness is prevalent in our society. Economic gains, if any will be negated and domestic/foreign investments and tourists will be discouraged to come in (*sic*)." I guess the Makati mutineers are against lawlessness, except their brand. What they are saying is: It is okay if I break the law but it is not okay if you do.

No thank you.

NBI estimates P30-million funding for mutiny

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER SENATE President Jovito Salonga, who at 83, seems to have no intention of slowing down, launches a book this afternoon at 4 p.m. at the Jose P. Laurel Hall of Freedom in the Lyceum of the Philippines in Intramuros, Manila. The handsome new book, titled "The Intangibles that Make a Nation Great," is a collection of his selected speeches, lectures and writings from 1961 when he first entered government service up to this year. The main speaker at the launch, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of Kilosbayan, the militant organization Salonga founded, is Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who probably would speak on that interesting subject: Erap's complaint against the Supreme Court justices. Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Salonga's colleague in the first post-Edsa Senate, and Sen. Joker Arroyo, his legal colleague during the Marcos regime, will give some remarks, and tenor Nolyn Cabahug will provide some musical numbers.

* * *

To read this book is to get a panoramic view of the country's history over the past four decades from one of the country's finest legal minds. The good thing is that Salonga continues to tirelessly raise his voice on crucial issues, not only in his Kilosbayan "President's Page" but in various forums as well. His following among government officials, legal luminaries, political science students and plain citizens is legion. Among the recent issues he tackled fearlessly and in a scholarly and erudite fashion are the Sandiganbayan decision on the UCPB case, former President Estrada's case against the SC justices, the Kuratong Baleleng case and the SC decision on the Marcos Swiss deposits. As last weekend's rebellion raged, Salonga lectured the nation on the difference between a coup and a mutiny or rebellion. His admirers hope God will continue to bless him with good health as his voice is badly needed amid so much stupidity now passing for erudition.

* * *

Officers of the Manila Overseas Press Club, led by Dong Puno, had been extending the invitation to President Macapagal-Arroyo to grace its annual "President's Night," but things didn't work out. Last Tuesday suddenly the Palace set it for Thursday evening, giving the MOPC just two days to prepare. Doubtless GMA wanted a forum to get many things off her chest.

GMA had a prepared speech where she set down policies in handling the military rebels involved in the Oakwood mutiny and the PNP over Fathur al-Ghozi's escape, and here she sounded like a stern and even imperious commander. But during the question-and-answer portion, she relaxed and began talking to the ballroom crowd as though it was just a roundtable conversation. In responding to queries, GMA was candid, witty, confident and charming at times. From the outset she made it clear she wanted no reference to 2004, and when Mike Enriquez of GMA Network raised the query, she said with a half-smile, "Mike, if you don't change that question I'll walk out of here." Obviously she didn't want to be sidetracked from the burning issues of the day.

* * *

Highlights from GMA: The government will be "compassionate" toward the rebels, but they have to suffer the full consequences of their action through a court martial. She noted that meting out punishment was the first recommendation of the Davide Commission that investigated the 1989 failed coup attempt. Stressing that she feels sad about the way the rebels were exploited by unscrupulous politicians, GMA nonetheless stressed that "they have to be brought to justice, no matter how good-looking they are." Only in this way, she said, will we be able to prevent future coups. She cited the NBI's estimate that the sophisticated weaponry and equipment the rebels sported, "which the military doesn't have," and all the expenses they incurred, including the down payment at Oakwood cost about P30 million. But GMA also stressed that as soon as she assumed office in 2001, she already started the reforms in the procurement system, raising the salaries of the soldiers and building housing for them in various camps.

* * *

Those who want Defense Chief Angelo Reyes' head will have to wait since GMA has no plan to let him go. "They want Reyes to resign to weaken me," she said. On the other hand, PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane's main mission is still to get Al-Ghozi and she is confident Ebdane's vast network will catch him. As for resigned Isafp Chief Victor Corpus, he will be reassigned to the Palace to man the war room, where activities of the left and the right are being tracked down, as well as the root causes for their discontent are studied and analyzed.

What almost stole the show from GMA was the spontaneous participation of her junior aide-de-camp, Capt. Cris Magdangal of Class '95, whom she referred to as one of the "good guys" of that class. In answer to a panelist's query, GMA allowed Magdangal to relate how he responded to the text of his classmate, Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV, last Sunday at 2 a.m. for a chat as he was worried *"na may titira sa kanya."* Magdangal brought him to the PSG group commander at 3 a.m. and by 7 a.m. he had sought permission from GMA, then jogging around the Palace grounds, to bring Trillanes to her. For the next one and a half hours the young officer and his Commander in Chief talked "very cordially" in the presence of PSG Lt. Col. Delfin Bangit, during which he aired his complaints. GMA asked for a copy of his masteral thesis on military corruption and Sen. Gregorio Honasan's National Recovery Program, and around 8:30 a.m. he bade leave, asking for security, and rejoined his men. At that point, however, said GMA, "the plot seemed to be too far down the road to abort." *(To be continued)*

A malicious statement

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

YESTERDAY was supposed to be "National Family Planning Day" but you wouldn't know it from the lack of public awareness and discussion. Unlike last year when the occasion was marked with a celebration at the Marikina Riverbanks and a mass program of tubal ligation and vasectomy as well as counseling on other family planning methods, the only public event I heard of this year was the annual gathering of volunteers of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP).

Maybe the President's Sona put a damper on the occasion. After all, she just tarred the entire reproductive health movement, as well as a good number of legislators, with the unfounded label of smugglers—of abortion, no less—through the Reproductive Health Care Act.

To refresh your memory, President Macapagal said: "Pro-life *pa rin ako.* I will veto any bill that will try to smuggle in abortion."

Actually, the statement reads to me like a last-minute insertion, and my theory is that it was penciled in at the last minute after someone worried that the Church would be angered by the President's declaration that she was lifting her personal moratorium on the death penalty but only for drug dealers. To placate the bishops, the President offered them the women.

(But isn't it also funny how the Church worries so much for the souls and earthly existence of people convicted of heinous crimes, forgiving them even those grave sins, but remains so unforgiving of women and couples whose only crime is to try to control their reproductive lives?)

Even if it was only meant to soothe the ruffled feathers of ecclesiastics, and was just two sentences of what felt like a thousand sentences in the Sona, the statement was still grossly unfair and mean-spirited—and untrue. Which also makes it malicious because the President has already met with the Reproductive Health Care Act's authors who have explained its contents to her and made clear that it would in no way legalize abortion or even open doors to that eventuality.

And knowing this, I wonder now how much truth there was in the rest of the Sona.

* * *

EXPECTEDLY, the 72 lawmakers who are members of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation (PLCPD) reacted to the snide implication that they were trying to "smuggle in" abortion through legislation. "We... are one with the President's position against abortion," they said, "as we are dedicated to saving the lives and upholding quality life of the Filipino people through the crafting of relevant population and human development policies."

The RH Bill, they clarified, "seeks to protect and save the lives of mothers and the unborn by ensuring that reproductive health care programs are in place and the necessary funds are allocated. Above this, the bill seeks to protect the basic unit of society by laying the foundation for strong families through responsible parenthood, underpinned by the principle of informed choice."

Unfortunately, said the PLCPD members, "our genuine intentions are being tainted with disinformation coming from the politically influential Catholic hierarchy, which alleges that the RH Bill (HB 4110 and SB 2325) promotes abortion. Sadly, even the President herself seems misled by the Church's unfounded allegations.

"A close reading of the bill will reveal that abortion is in no way being promoted or encouraged. In fact, the bill seeks to help women avoid abortion by preventing unintended pregnancies through education and access to a full range of legal and medically safe and effective family planning methods. The bill specifically states that 'abortion is not included as a family planning method.'

"Moreover, the bill seeks to provide humane treatment to women who have undergone abortion. Sadly, the bill's provision on the prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications is often misconstrued as tantamount to legalizing abortion."

* * *

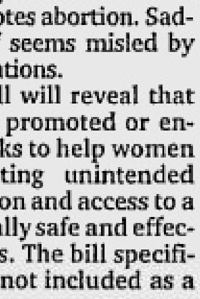
THE "RH Bill" seeks to ensure coverage for all reproductive health issues, including maternal, infant and child health, prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, violence against women and treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers, the legislators pointed out.

But in all the flak about the bill's alleged "abortion" content, and with the President giving credence to the disinformation being peddled by its opponents, the PLCPD members said they are fast losing hope "that the President will ever give recognition to the reality that thousands of women and children are dying each year from reproductive health-related reasons, and that thousands of families are being forced to live in subhuman conditions because of overpopulation."

Despite the President's malicious imputations, the legislators vowed to "continue pushing" for the "RH Bill" and other legislation on population issues. "We know that we are not alone in this effort," they said, citing several church organizations (Iglesia ni Cristo, Council of Christian Bishops in the Philippines, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, Jesus Is Lord Movement, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, and the Office on Muslim Affairs), business groups (Ecop, PCCI, Philippines Inc.), women and youth groups, local government units and even national government agencies (NCRFW, NAPC Women's Sectoral Council, DepEd, CHED, DSWD, CHR, Council for the Welfare of Children, Civil Service Commission, Pop Com and the DOH) and PhilHealth that "have all expressed support" for the legislation.

One wonders what sort of world her Lola wants to leave Mikaela and her generation, if Lola Gloria prefers to continue to ignore one of the most pressing problems confronting us.

Uprisings of the Filipinos



SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

BECAUSE Rizal's statue stands on every town plaza and only the names of Bonifacio, Mabini and Del Pilar are usually mentioned in books, we forget that there are other Filipino heroes in the pantheon of our history. There may be those who believe that it was only in 1896 that Filipinos rose against the Spaniards when actually there were many other uprisings before that. Practically the entire period of Spanish occupation saw revolutionary movements in different parts of the country.

In 1622 the Boholanos rose in protest against the missionaries. Another uprising took place in 1744 led by Dagohoy. The rebellion lasted 35 years, longer than any other insurrection.

Leyte was also the scene of another insurrection in 1622, and the governor of Cebu was compelled to send 40 vessels to help the local governor before peace could be restored.

In 1649 Sumoroy in Samar rebelled against conscription to the Cavite arsenal. The government needed galleons but the people, on the other hand, needed to work the fields in order to feed their families. Sad to say, it was his own people who betrayed him.

There were also riots in 1649 in Albay and Masbate and several Europeans lost their lives in similar riots in Caraga and Butuan.

The year 1660 saw the Kapampangans revolting as a result of nonpayment of wages. (It was no consolation to the Spaniards that they hadn't been paid either because the money hadn't been sent.) There were nearly 10,000 men under Andres Malong in Pangasinan. Eventually 40,000 of them took to war under him. The Spaniards were compelled to send reinforcements and even armed vessels. Eventually Malong was again betrayed from within his own ranks.

The Novales revolt in 1823 attempted to take the capital and subvert the government. There were violent disturbances in Cebu in 1827, and in 1844 the governor of Negros, who was believed to be corrupt, was killed in an uprising. The chain linking these events was the perceived lack of justice.

In 1872 came the Cavite Mutiny. A group of natives took possession of the arsenal supported by accomplices in Manila. The mutiny was suppressed, but then events took a fateful turn that eventually led to the 1886 revolution. For alleged complicity, Fathers Burgos, Gomez and Zamora were garroted and several well-known civilians exiled. The martyred priests were believed to have been framed by the friars who, it was rumored, trumped up the evidence against Father Burgos. The original problem stemmed from the takeover of parishes by Spanish priests from the native clergy, an act vehemently protested by Filipinos. Native priests demanded that the friars retire from parishes and return to monastic life.

Again in the people's eyes there was corruption and injustice. The friars generally blamed the influence of Freemasonry for the upheaval of 1886 but which of them would have accepted that it was their actions that led to the diminishing influence of the Catholic Church?

What did develop from the Masonic lodges was the Katipunan, whose members wanted "to redeem the Philippines from its tyrants, the friars, and to found a communistic republic." From 1895 to 1896, measures were adopted to suppress the Katipunan, mainly the deportation of suspects who couldn't obtain a pardon unless they managed to bribe someone.

The underlying theme of all these revolts and insurrections and the major cause of dissatisfaction was injustice. There was an incident cited of a Caviteño arrested for murder in 1890 and sent to jail. The evidence was circumstantial despite witnesses who gave their deposition. Time passed but the prisoner was not brought before the court. Some of the witnesses died while others left the islands, but still the prisoner continued to rot in jail. He was never tried. Eventually he may have died or may have been released when Aguinaldo's troops took Cavite Viejo.

According to John Foreman, "[A] criminal, or civil, suit in the Philippines was one of the worst calamities that could befall a man. Between notaries, procurators, solicitors, barristers, and the sluggish process of the courts, a litigant was fleeced of his money, often worried into a bad state of health, and kept in horrible suspense and doubt for years. When judgment was given it was as hard to get it executed as it was to win the case. A defect in the sentence could always be concocted to reopen the whole affair. If a case had been tried and judgment given under the Civil Code, a way was often found to convert it into a criminal case, and when apparently settled under the Criminal Code, a flaw could be discovered under the Laws of the Indies, or the Siete Partidas or the Roman Law and so forth... by which the case could be reopened."

Think back on the incident this past weekend at Oakwood. Don't the accusations sound familiar? The feeling of déjà vu goes back a long way to the beginnings of our recorded history. It isn't a new fight, and as long as the Filipino cannot expect his complaints to be addressed with justice and fairness, we can expect more uprisings and more mutinies. Make no mistake, there was a lot of sympathy generated by what the soldiers were trying to achieve.

(Data from C.H. Forbes-Lindsay's "America's Insular Possession.")

Romancing the sea

YOUNG BLOOD

Jose Dante G. Albao Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT was a chilly December night when I finally discovered the beauty of the sea. Before then, the sea was to me a dead thing—lifeless, isolated, indifferent. Whether its color was blue, green or gray, it never held any attraction for me. The same with the creatures I imagined to be just swimming eternally. It was not that I avoided the beach; it was part of summer fun and I was a bikini fan. But I never soaked in the beach, and it was all because I got hurt by a jellyfish when I was only 5 years old. That was the time I decided to call it quits with the sea.

Last December, our Advanced Biology teacher took us on an educational field trip to a beach resort in Northern Negros. My classmates were excited, and I was enthusiastic, but that was because I was anticipating some nice experiences with my crush.

We arrived at Northwind Resort in Escalante, Negros Occidental, at around 8 p.m. It was really dark, and I couldn't see a thing. Our bus stopped at the lawn beside the administration building which was shrouded in darkness. While we waited for the resort staff to take us to our rooms, I was feeling lost and confused. Where's the beach? I asked myself. I opened the window and felt a strong wind blowing against my face, but I could still see no sign of the beach.

You get a strange feeling when what you don't see touches you, literally and figuratively. The eyes may be our windows to the world, but there are four other senses that let us know there's something there that we cannot see. The wind was blowing strong and cold. But what finally moved me was the music of waves breaking on the rocks. I was first surprised by the sound and soon my eyes began to discern the horizon appearing faintly out of nowhere. That was the sea that night—serene and at the same time expressive.

The reason we chose to arrive at the resort at night was that our class intended to observe not only the diurnal life at the coast but also the nocturnal. Though there was no light, I believed I saw the shores clearly because of the sound. What really amazed me that night was that the waves seemed to glow. The water was full of plankton and the motion of the waves was causing the bioluminescence.

For three hours, I just stared out of my window. The beach at night mystified me. Before going to sleep, I cast a last glance at the sea and saw a circular object floating. I peered into the darkness, but I couldn't figure out what that was. I fell asleep before I knew the answer.

In the daytime the sea and the beach looked less mysterious. My first impressions changed, not only because the sun was out to reveal everything hidden and solve all the mysteries, but also because our formal class project began.

We were each assigned a 5-sq.m. section of the rocky shore and told to find all the organisms there and classify them. I was astonished to find in just that small intertidal area, a hundred living creatures—from hermit crabs to green crabs, from barnacles to abalones, from chitons to whelks, from sea stars to sea cucumbers, from eel grass to seaweed.

I was awe-struck to find such a large number of organisms in that very small ecosystem. It was amazing to know that in such a tiny portion of the Earth's waters, a large number of creatures lived. And considering that 71 percent of the Earth is made up of water, the creatures making the sea as their home should number in the billions, not counting the microscopic plankton. And since the seas around the world are connected, then life under the waves are connected, too.

Just before noon, I went snorkeling away from our assigned area. I went to an area assigned to another group and saw my classmates there complaining that all they could find were sea urchins and sea grass. I offered them my help, thinking all it took was a little more effort to find scores of other organisms.

The moment I dove into the water, I was alerted by the presence of many sea urchins hiding in the grass just a meter away. Knowing that an abundance of sea urchins meant pollution, I immediately observed the surroundings through my goggles and I saw the exact opposite of what I expected. Instead of a hundred organisms, I saw a hundred waste materials. Slippers, softdrink and sardine cans, bottles, plastic bags and cups and all kinds of garbage imaginable were scattered around the place. I was in a completely different world from where I had been just minutes earlier. I was in a garbage dump. The thought that the Earth is 71 percent water became alarming.

In that instant I realized that our environment is composed of a diversity of life in some parts and a diversity of trash in other parts. I immediately remembered that we were in a resort, and one that was close to a coastal community. Still, I thought that people living near the sea should have acted more responsibly.

I had the urge to express alarm over the pollution of our waters. The Philippines is an archipelago, with so many islands, beaches and marine resources. If these things are destroyed, what will happen to us? Where will the food to feed billions of people come from?

I find it ironic that the great nations are still engaged in a space race, when the world's oceans have not been fully explored yet. There are a thousand living organisms under the sea, possibly much more than we have imagined. So why are some countries looking for life in other planets?

Ours is the only living planet. If we lose 71 percent of this planet's life, will we survive? We cannot afford to ignore the call of the Earth's waters. The breaking waves are like screams of pain trying to be heard.

That field trip was for me not only the best Biology class I have ever had. It was the reason I decided to take up a course in college that will equip me with the knowledge to work for marine preservation. I love the ocean now, regardless of the risk of having jellyfish itch. My crush will have to wait because I want to marry the sea first.

Jose Dante G. Albao Jr., 15, is a junior at the Negros Occidental Science High School. This essay won Second Place in "Youthspeak: Inquirer On-the-Spot Essay Writing Contest" held last May in Baguio City.

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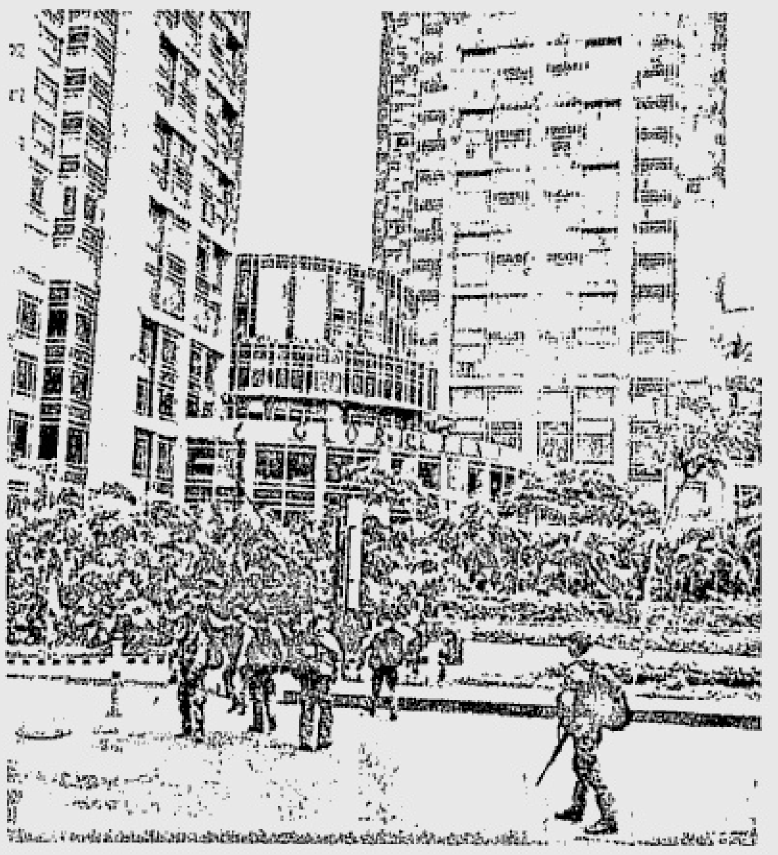
How could mutineers move out in full-battle gear?



AS an ordinary citizen, sick and tired of political adventurers who think that they can wrest and keep power just like that, I wish to raise some questions that I am sure bother many of the silent majority.

- How come the soldiers were able to leave camp with all those guns, ammo and bombs? If they can do that without anyone challenging them, then they can very well mount coups or sell those arms anytime.
- Shouldn't the government examine the curriculum of the Philippine Military Academy or better yet phase it out? The public pays for the schooling of these would-be officers. But do they serve the Republic? The PMA seems to have turned out officers who think of themselves as superior beings without moral scruples but with inordinate ambitions. We have suffered from too many coups staged by these supposed gentlemen-soldiers.

—R.A. RAYMUNDO,
451 Pedro Gil,
Manila

Simple-minded Sona

I HAVE noticed that there is at least a pair of hands orchestrating applause every time GMA finishes a line in her prepared speech. Malacañang officials seated in VIP row side by side with the diplomatic corps must have blisters in their hands after that State of the Nation Address gala show.

The Sona must have been a product of haphazard, hasteful gathering of facts or figures. At the very least, each agency must have been solicited with a one-page accomplishment report which they wanted GMA to tell the public. But how in the world can we say that Trade Secretary Mar Roxas has done something to bring down the prices of goods in the market? Simple economics will tell us this is not so.

The Sona may have avoided sounding like a mere promissory note by doing away with statements drafted in the future tense, but there were at least a couple of statements of this nature. What could possibly strike anyone with suspicion is on whether there is any real basis in stating that the GNP has moved up. And that interest rates are continually moving down.

GMA had touched on a number of other things, she even didn't forget to mention her granddaughter—instant child celebrity. What's entirely glittering from as far as the third gallery is her sparkling diamond earrings. It must cost her a fortune. One could sense that there have been exceptionally too many plainclothes security men than well-meaning people who should have gotten the chance to listen to her.

GMA kept thanking Congress for laws that have been passed and took occasion to tell Congress what other laws she envisions to be passed as urgent legislative agenda. So people know what set of laws are coming soon. Would this not make Congress a mere rubber stamp—at least in so far as those laws that GMA wants legislated?

Viewed from the backseat, I failed to hear anything that could be identified as a unique accomplishment of her presidency, save perhaps that one creating independent commissions to investigate the allegations made by Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV. But that seems unnecessary since the University of the Philippines can just be asked to give the Office of the President a copy of Trillanes' masteral thesis—assuming it is scientifically validated. But of course, sooner or later, heads should roll.

—PRIMER C. PAGUNURAN,
UP Diliman, e-mail:
nielsky_2000@yahoo.com

Don't rub it on the poor

LET me say that our members of Congress especially those belonging to the opposition must learn to refrain from criticizing, let alone attacking the statements made by the President right after the State of the Nation Address. It smacks of poor taste and ill-breeding. They could at least leave that for some other time. After all, we also have no way of verifying the accuracy of the statistics they blurted out. We do not know if they are lying or not.

I'd hope that the lady members of Congress would dress down a bit more instead of trying to upstage not only each other but most particularly the guest of honor—the President of the Republic.

Congress is not a place for fashion show or a venue to show off their gowns and jewelry especially since the affair was at four in the afternoon.

As it always happens, it's as if these overly-dressed ladies in evening gowns were going to an opera in the Champs Élysées.

The President of the Republic had no choice but to be in her best. But the others need not outdo her. An afternoon dress would suffice.

Please tone down. Don't rub it on the poor. Times are hard for them. Share your ill-gotten wealth with those in need instead of enriching your couturiers.

—MANUEL L. MORATO,
Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194
Tomas B. Morato Ave.,
Quezon City

Where is support for Mindanao corn farmers?

SECRETARY Luis Lorenzo of the Department of Agriculture has made clear the position of the government in the World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico come September is to maintain tariffs on agricultural products as a "defense against subsidized agricultural products from the US, EU, Japan and the Cairns goup." (PDI Business Section, B2-1)

Yet, now there is a move by the department to allow the tactical importation of P200,000 to P300,000 MT of US corn at 0 percent to 20 percent tariff (from current tariff of 35 percent) to bolster local corn supplies in the light of local production shortfalls exacerbated by a recent typhoon which damaged corn crops in Northern Luzon.

The wide gap between local production and the demand of local feed millers and the swine and poultry industry are real and it continues to widen, yet government has done little in the way of supporting increased productivity and competitiveness of local corn.

All this talk of defending our local corn from imports will forever be mere posturing because the DA is all talk but of little or no action when it comes to supporting small local corn farmers, especially in Mindanao.

Where is the promised support for production loans, post-harvest facilities and equipment for Mindanao corn farmers? Where have the Acef funds gone which were generated from tariff earnings precisely to prepare small producers to be globally competitive? Where are the promised production and post-harvest facility loans of Quedancor and the agriculture department for small corn farmers?

Mindanao corn farmers are blessed with typhoon-free production areas and can produce globally competitive corn. In South Cotabato and Davao del Norte, corn farmers can even plant and harvest all year round. Yet, they are not given the support and opportunity to better their lives and contribute to the nation's food security, because the government chooses to posture rather than take action to effectively help in the effort to sufficiently plant good quality corn.

—AMADO MAGBANUA,
president, Mindanao Alliance of
Independent Smallholder Corn
Farmers (Maiscofa)

Why has gov't not yet canceled its contract with Mirant?

THE US energy giant Mirant Corp. has declared bankruptcy to the tune of $1.1 billion. Meanwhile, its Philippine subsidiary raked in a P12-billion profit last year.

We are not surprised by this. Mirant Philippines' IPP contracts contain "take-or-pay" guarantees that allow it to operate business virtually risk-free. Under these contracts, consumers absorb all risks, while Mirant is assured of huge profits.

Mirant's power plants in Sual (Pangasinan), Pagbilao (Quezon) and Navotas account for a big share in the Luzon power supply, totaling 2,000 megawatts (17 percent of the 12,000-MW Luzon grid capacity). The contracts are among the most unfair and grossly disadvantageous to consumers. The government's own Inter-Agency IPP Review Committee (IAC) has declared Sual as one of the five most onerous contracts and Pagbilao as having serious "financial" issues.

What defies logic is that despite its own findings on the Mirant contracts, the Macapagal administration has not cancelled them. Despite these findings, Mirant CEO Marce Fuller, remains a member of President Macapagal Arroyo's International Board of Advisers.

Recently, the US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission found Mirant liable for manipulating the California electricity spot market, which led to dramatic disturbances in energy prices in that state. Why did the President choose to appoint and continues to retain Fuller as a member of her International Board of Advisers? This special relationship with Mirant and Fuller casts grave doubt on the integrity of the renegotiating process.

We call on Congress and other appropriate government institutions to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation to determine the extent of Mirant's involvement in the Philippines and all its transactions and relations, financial and political, with Philippine government officials, including the President.

We demand from the President full public disclosure of her relationship with Mirant and the advice she has received from Fuller, in her capacity as a member of the International Board of Advisers. Further, there should be full public disclosure of the details and results of the government renegotiation with Mirant.

We call for an immediate official inquiry into the possible impact of Mirant's US bankruptcy on Mirant Philippines.

—ANA MARIA R. NEMENZO,
president, Freedom from Debt
Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., QC

Faulty recollection of events

THE ITEM of your columnist Ramon Tulfo on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's defense of former President Cory Aquino was as pathetic and despicable as his own piece on Ms Aquino.

Instead of apologizing to the former president, he unfairly trained his sights on Lacson by glibly passing off a new lie about the senator. To the senator's amusement, Tulfo again concocted situations in his mind and passed them off as "facts."

Tulfo must have been hallucinating when he attributed to the senator the statement "*Mabuti na yon Mon, e para wala nang panggulo.*" It's amazing how he can claim to remember a statement allegedly made 20 years ago!

But his memory is already evidently failing him because the senator was nowhere around the offices of the now defunct Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group during the period which he said was "a couple of days after the assassination (of Ninoy Aquino) on Aug. 21, 1983."

A month before Ninoy was assassinated, Lacson who was then a lieutenant colonel in the defunct Philippine Constabulary, was already in Fort Bonifacio taking up the regular General Staff Course. He could not have possibly met Tulfo at the MISG office then.

Tulfo should apologize to his readers for misleading them again.

—EVARISTO O. GANA,
chief of staff, Office of Sen. Panfilo
Lacson, Rm. 523, GSIS Financial
Center, CCP Complex,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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Democrats attack Bush's credibility

NEWS ANALYSIS

Thomas Ferraro

WASHINGTON—During the 2000 presidential race, Republican George W. Bush repeatedly charged that Democrat Al Gore would "say anything to get elected president." Democrats are now using variations on that theme against President Bush.

Emboldened by a flare-up over Bush's use of disputed intelligence on Iraq, his slipping poll numbers and a mounting federal deficit, Democrats charge that Bush seems willing to say or do anything to get what he wants—such as the war to unseat Saddam Hussein and tax cuts for the rich.

One top Democrat, Sen. Bob Graham of Florida, a 2004 White House contender, has even suggested that if Bush deliberately hyped the facts in the case for war, he should be impeached.

While other Democrats have been unwilling to second such a call, they have come together in recent weeks to increase the heat on the still popular, yet under fire, president on this and other fronts. "Clearly it is time for the president to step forward and tell the truth," declared Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, another presidential contender, in what has nearly become a party refrain.

Democrats point largely to "the 16 words" in Bush's January State of the Union address to support their charge that he may have manipulated intelligence to drum up support for war. In the speech, Bush used a now-discredited claim that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa for a nuclear weapons program as evidence that Iraq represented a threat to the United States.

In a news conference, Bush, who for weeks blamed others, on Wednesday said he took "personal responsibility" for making the claim.

Democrats have also ratcheted up their contention that Bush has implemented a misguided tax-cutting policy which has increased the deficit and slowed an economic recovery.

In addition, Democrats complain that Bush has failed to come up with promised funding for education reform, has inadequately financed homeland security and has done a poor job of stabilizing a post-Saddam Iraq.

A Democratic strategist said: "The attacks Bush leveled against Gore for being willing to 'say anything to get elected' will be turned against Bush in this election. Count on it."

Republicans have retorted that Democrats are barking up the wrong tree. "They've spewed more rhetoric at President Bush than they ever did at Saddam Hussein," House Republican Leader Tom DeLay of Texas told reporters. "They think if they get just a little bit angrier, and a little bit meaner, and a little bit louder, the American people will start hating the president as much as they do.

"If that's their strategy, then in the words of President Bush, 'Bring 'em on.' If the truth hurts, so be it," said Rep. James Moran, a Virginia Democrat. "Democrats had seemed to be a little intimidated by Bush and reluctant to challenge him on national security. But no more."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, spoke softly as he sought to put the matter in perspective. "Any out of power party looks for opening," Graham said. "They think the 16 words is an opening. They think the economy is an opening. I don't think it will materialize. But if a year from now, we are still losing one or two soldiers a day and unemployment is still at 5.5 or 6 percent, it could hurt the president."

"Right now, it is just politics," Graham said. "Democrats are in a tough spot. You have a popular president. They only way to get any traction is to try to knock him down."

Graham recalled 1998 when Republicans increased their attacks on Democratic President Bill Clinton leading up to his impeachment on charges stemming from his affair with a White House intern, only to see him maintain high approval ratings and his party pick up congressional seats.

"My advice to our good Democratic friends is to learn from our mistakes," Graham said. "The key is not to overplay your hand, and I think the Democrats are overplaying their hand." Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, who was Gore's vice presidential running mate in 2000, is now one of nine Democrats seeking to be their party's 2004 presidential nomination.

"After two and one-half years I think it is appropriate to hold the president accountable for some of the promises he made during the 2000 campaign," Lieberman said. "He promised to usher in 'a new era of responsibility,' but refuses to accept responsibility" for such matters as the ailing economy.

Jennifer Duffy of the non-partisan Cook Political Report said that since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, Democrats have tried and failed to take on the popular wartime president on a host of issues.

"Many Democrats now think they have an issue that might work for them—Bush's credibility," Duffy said. "It's going to take time to see how it plays out." *Reuters*

N. Korea agrees to 6-way talks on crisis

WASHINGTON—The United States said Thursday that it could sit down with North Korea in six-nation crisis talks as early as next month, as a breakthrough appeared imminent in a six-month nuclear showdown.

Hours after Russia said North Korea had accepted a US proposal for six-way talks, and President George W. Bush spoke to Chinese President Hu Jintao on the issue, the State Department said it was "very encouraged" by developments.

"At this moment we have indications that we find very encouraging," said State Department spokesperson Boucher said.

The Russian foreign ministry said earlier that North Korea had agreed to a US proposal to hold six-nation talks to try to resolve the nuclear standoff which erupted last October.

Asked whether such talks could take place in September, a senior State Department official replied on condition of anonymity: "It could be then, it could be earlier."

Should the Russian statement be borne out, it would be seen as a diplomatic victory for Washington, which has consistently refused Pyongyang's demands for one-on-one talks on the crisis that erupted in October.

Boucher said that US diplomats had not yet consulted Russian opposite numbers on the announcement, and officials said US optimism was based on Bush's call Wednesday with Hu.

"We are actually beginning to make serious progress about sharing responsibility on this issue," Bush said in a White House news conference on Wednesday.

His administration has long argued that as previous bilateral talks and agreements with North Korea, especially an anti-nuclear pact with the previous Clinton administration in 1994, have failed, a new one-on-one dialogue is pointless.

Therefore, Bush officials say, a solution this time must be found with key Asian regional powers.

Washington held inconclusive three-way talks with China and North Korea in Beijing in April, and has been campaigning to get allies South Korea and Japan involved in any new consultations.

North Korea has been considering a new US proposal for resuming three-party negotiations followed quickly by six-party talks, with Seoul, Tokyo and Moscow joining the forum.

The senior US official said that it may not prove necessary to reconvene a three-way dialogue before heading to the six-way format.

The US proposal was submitted to North Korea by China following Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo's return last week from a trip to Washington.

Beijing dispatched Dai to Pyongyang earlier this month for talks with reclusive leader Kim Jong-il and then sent him on to Washington for talks with Secretary of State Colin Powell and top White House officials.

As diplomacy on the question gathered pace, senior State Department envoy John Bolton has been in Asia, and on Thursday in Seoul stepped up a war of words with Pyongyang, saying Kim Jong Il was forcing his people to live a "hellish nightmare."

North Korea on Wednesday, in public at least, reverted to its insistence on a non-aggression pact and one-on-one talks, which Washington has ruled out. *AFP*

Same-sex unions deviant, pose threat to society, Vatican says

VATICAN CITY—The Vatican condemned same-sex unions as deviant and a threat to society on Thursday in a fresh attempt to halt the growing momentum toward legalizing gay marriage in North America and Europe.

The Holy See urged Catholic lawmakers to vote against bills that would recognize gay marriage in a strongly worded document approved by Pope John Paul—causing anger among gay rights activists across Europe.

"Marriage exists solely between a man and a woman... Marriage is holy, while homosexual acts go against the natural moral law," said the 12-page document by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior... but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity."

The document also denounced gay couples adopting children:

"Allowing children to be adopted by persons living in such unions would actually mean doing violence to these children."

Gay rights groups were swift to hit back.

"This is just the latest move in their homophobic crusade," said Franco Grillini, an Italian lawmaker and honorary chair of Arcigay, the country's largest gay rights group.

Abroad, the reaction was equally virulent.

"The new statement by the Vatican on same-sex partnerships is a sad document of close-minded fanaticism," said Volker Beck, parliamentary manager of Germany's Greens, junior coalition partner in the center-left government.

Henk Beerten, chair of the Federation of Dutch Associations for the Integration of Homosexuality, said the Vatican was fighting a losing battle. "This just shows the Church is way, way behind developments in society," he said. *Reuters*

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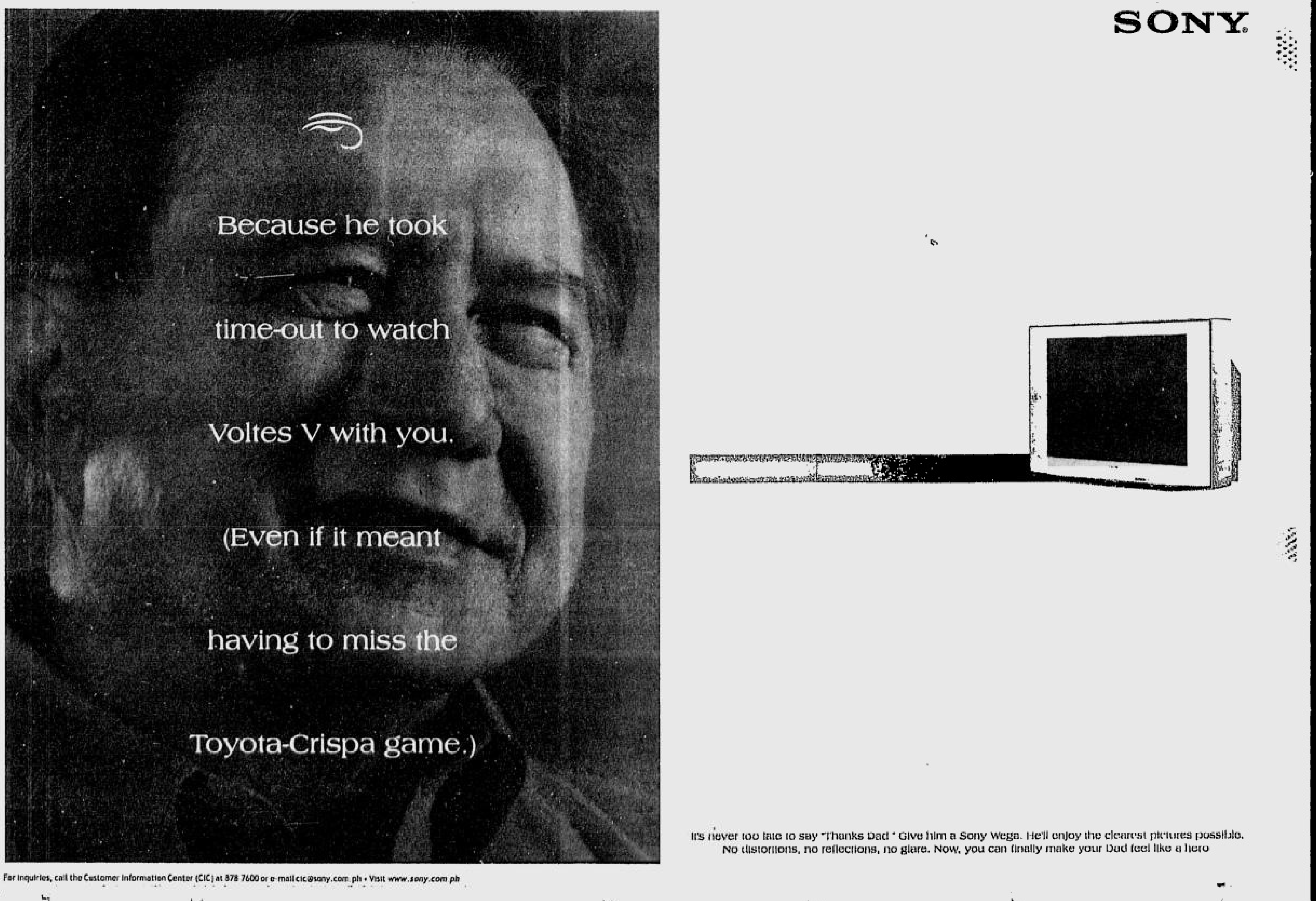
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Bush admission does not close book on Iraq intel flap, solons say

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush was right in accepting responsibility for the use of flawed intelligence on Iraq, US lawmakers said Thursday, while insisting on greater accountability from the White House in its global war against terrorism.

At a White House Rose Garden press conference Wednesday the president accepted blame for the use of a now-discredited claim that Iraq sought uranium for nuclear weapons in Africa.

"I take personal responsibility for everything I say, of course. Absolutely," Bush said, after weeks of evading blame for inserting the 16-word reference into his speech.

Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said the admission was "worthwhile" but late in coming.

"I'm sorry it had to take this long for him to acknowledge his responsibility," he said, adding there were "a number of other questions that also ought to be reviewed, and I think, investigated."

"What I am troubled by is the events leading up to the State of the Union message, what may have been the abuse of intelligence to gather information, and... the lack of real understanding about how all of that happened," Daschle said.

"We still need the kind review and investigative research done to make sure that we know, and that we also have the confidence that this will never be done again."

Senator Dianne Feinstein said of the president's apology: "It doesn't cover it."

"That was using a flawed intelligence judgment. The question is whether there are other flawed intelligence judgments."

"Remember," she added, "we haven't found weapons of mass destruction. Remember, at least one senator—myself—wouldn't have voted for the use of force had it not been for the concept of threat, perhaps imminent threat."

Another Senate Democrat, Ron Wyden of Oregon, said the president's concession in no way lessens the mandate of lawmakers holding closed-door hearings into the White House use of prewar intelligence on Iraq.

"I feel very strongly as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee that all the facts have got to come out, and that's why we're going to stay at it until they do," said Wyden.

Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat, said the president himself should be leading the charge on seeking accountability for the faulty intelligence.

"The president has an obligation to determine who was responsible for that and to take proper steps for accountability. *AFP*

Rebuilding Iraq may cost up to $100B, says Bremer

WASHINGTON—Iraq's US administrator said on Thursday that rebuilding the country could require anywhere from $50 billion to $100 billion of outside money over the next couple of years.

Paul Bremer, in an interview with CNBC's "Capital Report," said for at least the next few years "we're going to have to spend a lot more money than we're going to get revenues even once we get oil production back to prewar levels."

Bremer said he did not know the total cost of getting the country up and running again, but said: "It's probably well above $50 billion, $60 billion, maybe $100 billion. It's a lot of money."

United Nations sanctions that had stifled Iraq's economy for 13 years were lifted in May, when the United States and Britain also won broad powers to run Iraq and sell its oil until a new government is established. Iraq has the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia.

Bremer said that eventually he hoped the Iraq would be able to fund itself through oil revenues but "they've got a real problem in the next few years."

Earlier, US senators from both parties criticized the Bush administration for not spelling out the costs of rebuilding Iraq.

In testimony to Congress, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and White House Budget Director Joshua Bolten said they could not estimate costs because they said the situation in Iraq was too fluid. *Reuters*

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VP urges probe of mutiny by commission

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said soldiers involved in Sunday's mutiny should be investigated first by the three-member commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo before they are subjected to court martial proceedings and investigated by the Senate.

Guingona, who was guest in a symposium at the Central Luzon State University here on Wednesday, said he knows that the three parallel investigations have different objectives but the commission will have "more encompassing objectives."

Ms Macapagal on Tuesday appointed retired Supreme Court Justices Florentino Feliciano and Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, and political science professor Carolina Hernandez to lead the commission that would investigate the Makati City mutiny.

Guingona said the court martial proceedings would look into the violations of existing laws and military rules and regulations while the Senate investigation would be made in aid of legislation.

He said the "truth commission" would look into the roots of the problems that led the soldiers to stage the mutiny.

The findings and recommendations of the commission are expected to address the problems raised by the soldiers, he said.

"The soldiers must have a channel of protest. They may be like boiling water whose lid is suppressed. If there's no channel for their protest, they may erupt again and again," he said.

He said the soldiers involved in the Sunday mutiny are important witnesses, adding that the commission should immediately hear their official statements.

Guingona expressed concern over reports that at least five of the identified leaders of the mutiny have been put under "incommunicado detention."

He also lamented the "injustices" in the government and the country's judicial system.

He said the country has a Constitution that provides equal protection of rights of people and other laws that provide for justice and equality.

But the implementation of their provisions is tainted with the "perversion of truth and justice," he said.

Guingona also called for a lifestyle check of judges and other officials in the judiciary.

In Baguio City, members of a union of government employees here called on soldiers and policemen to join the campaign to ask the government for wage increases. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The gates of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio, from where the most members of the opposing sides in the Makati mutiny came, is not spared from the tight security imposed around camps nationwide at the mutiny's height.

DENR stops lumber firm from further cutting trees in Aurora, Quirino

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on Wednesday ordered a stop to the illegal logging operations of a lumber firm in northern Aurora and neighboring Quirino province.

Gozun, in a memorandum dated July 30, instructed Ester Rasco, executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Central Luzon, to "issue the immediate suspension of the harvesting operations of Toplite Lumber Inc."

The secretary issued the memorandum almost two months after a multi-sectoral team completed the investigation of illegal logging operations in the two provinces.

The investigation was requested by the Aurora-based non-government organizations Multi-Sectoral Alliance Group and Bataris.

"Findings of the multi-sectoral team showed there were violations of the provisions of the Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma) particularly with regard to cutting operations prior to the approval of the Integrated Operations Plan (IOP) and operations outside of the IOP," Gozun told Rasco.

The areas of Toplite Lumber spanned more than 4,000 hectares at Barangays Dianed, Dinadiawan and Calaocan in Dipaculao town in Aurora.

The team's findings include the issuance of an environmental compliance certificate to the company and the approval of its Ifma without consultations with the communities.

The team, led by Joveniana Galicia, chief of the DENR natural forest management division, also recommended the cancellation of the company's Ifma.

The team also recommended the filing of charges against DENR Southern Luzon Director Samuel Penafiel, regional technical review committee chair Lino Rustia and five members.

Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who approved Toplite Lumber's comprehensive development and management plan on the recommendation of Penafiel, was not cited as liable for charges.

Surigao mayor nabbed at home on graft raps

BUTUAN CITY—The town mayor of Libjo in Surigao del Norte was arrested after the Sandiganbayan found probable cause to indict him for graft and corrupt practices, reports reaching here said yesterday.

Mayor Lamberto Llamera Jr. was arrested by elements of the Libjo police on Monday morning.

The executive, according to a report furnished the Caraga regional police headquarters, did not resist when elements of the Libjo police under SPO4 Ullyses Garcia Jr. took him from his residence.

Earlier, Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Edilberto Sandoval ordered Llamera's arrest and recommended a bail bond of P30,000 for the mayor's temporary liberty.

The municipal council accused Llamera of receiving double pay from the government and sued him before the anti-graft court.

Councilor Rodolfo Pertarco told a local radio station here that since winning as mayor in 2001, Llamera has been acting as town legal counsel and has also been drawing salary for that position.

He said they would push for Llamera's suspension from office in the light of the Sandiganbayan's arrest order.

Pertarco said they were also set to file more graft charges against the mayor. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Kin ask Belgian youths to fly back home

By Gobleth Moulic and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The families of a group of Belgian students directed them to fly back home today as rescue efforts failed to recover two of their companions, who were swept away by the strong current of the Agno River on Wednesday.

But the Belgian youths refused to leave the country until they could determine the fates of Kelly Smets, 19, and India Carreras, 22, said Windel Bolinget, vice chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

The CPA had hosted the Belgian students' trip to the Philippines as part of their international solidarity work.

Smets, Carreras and two other members of the Belgian-based Young Christian Workers (YCW) were swimming in the Agno River at Barangay Dalupirip in the mining town of Itogon, Benguet, on Wednesday when strong currents pulled the two women underwater.

The Agno River supplies water to the Ambuklao and the Binga dams in Benguet and the San Roque hydroelectric dam, which straddles Itogon and San Manuel towns in Pangasinan.

Rains and strong winds from last week's typhoon Harurot had elevated dam waters flowing through the 356-megawatt San Roque Multipurpose Dam Project (SRMDP), and had left the Agno River churning with debris, according to Rosalio Goze, a consultant of the San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC), the dam's operators.

Bolinget said the companions of Smets and Carreras managed to swim ashore, and were not rescued as earlier reported. The survivors—a 19-year-old boy and a 20-year-old girl—called up their parents and the families of Smets and Carreras on Thursday night.

"They were told to pack up and fly home. But they told their families that no one was willing to leave until they knew more about Kelly and India. The Belgian (teenager) and the other woman had alerted the Itogon community about (the missing women), so they feel responsible for them," Bolinget said.

The identities of the surviving Belgian mission were not released to the INQUIRER at the request of Belgian officials, Bolinget said.

The Belgian Embassy had started monitoring the rescue efforts.

Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas brought Navy frogmen from San Fernando City in La Union only on Friday morning.

Goze said the SRPC had sent out teams to navigate through the river section that feeds the San Roque reservoir. Water level at the reservoir had risen by some 20 meters after the typhoon, he said.

Ramon Cariño, Barangay Dalupirip chief, said Molintas had requested the National Power Corp. (Napocor) to slow the current by curbing the release of water from the Binga Dam.

'Tanods' get benefit promises from Lina

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The barangay *tanods*, the volunteer security forces in the villages, finally got the attention they deserved, with Interior Secretary Jose Lina promising to work for their sub-professional eligibility.

Lina, who was in this city during the graduation ceremony of 9,000 *tanods* in Pangasinan on Wednesday, said he would also work for their life insurance and other benefits.

"I am going to talk with the Civil Service Commission to give the *tanods* a sub-professional status, and will give them additional life insurance although I know that most of them already were given life insurance benefits by the local government units," he said.

Lina paid tribute to the village volunteer workers who help the police keep peace and order in the barangays.

Gov. Victor Agbayani also cited the importance of the *tanods*, saying it was them who discovered the hundreds of kilos of shabu at the shore of Infanta town years back.

Lina said the *tanods* also tipped the police of the existence of the shabu laboratory in a mansion in Parañaque City.

"We need the *tanods* to augment the law enforcement agencies. I believe that if they are given additional knowledge and training, they can be effective in fighting criminality and terrorism," he said.

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"Because the *tanods* are in the villages, they know what's happening there and they know the strangers coming or going, so they really play a big role." *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-reb soldiers recount 1989 experience, advise troops to learn lessons

TWO former rebel soldiers now assigned to the intelligence unit of the Army in Camp Panakan, Mindanao advised the 296 officers and men who held a mutiny in Makati to "learn to accept and correct mistakes."

Col. Allen Capuyan and Maj. Vic Tomas, who took part in the 1989 failed coup against ex-President Corazon Aquino, said in a statement they were speaking from experience as they fell victims, too, of a failed coup attempt.

"It brings back sad memories. When I look at these young boys, I find myself in them. I really pity them," the statement quoted Capuyan as saying.

Capuyan and Tomas asked the mutineers to learn from their mistakes and accept these as lessons in their lives and careers.

"I humbled down before former President Corazon Aquino," Capuyan said. "There's still hope."

He said during his detention at Fort Bonifacio, the headquarters of the Philippine Army, he learned to ponder over what he did and learned to admit his mistakes.

"What we need is an inner transformation," said Capuyan.

Tomas, in the same statement, said he also learned so much from the 1989 failed coup.

"Thank heaven I was given a second chance by the government," Tomas said.

The two officers are among 3,000 Scout Rangers who took over the Twin Towers in Makati City in a failed attempt to overthrow Ms Aquino in 1989.

Capuyan was jailed for 18 months in Fort Bonifacio while Tomas joined the underground movement and went into hiding from 1989 until 1991. Tomas was jailed for at least two years.

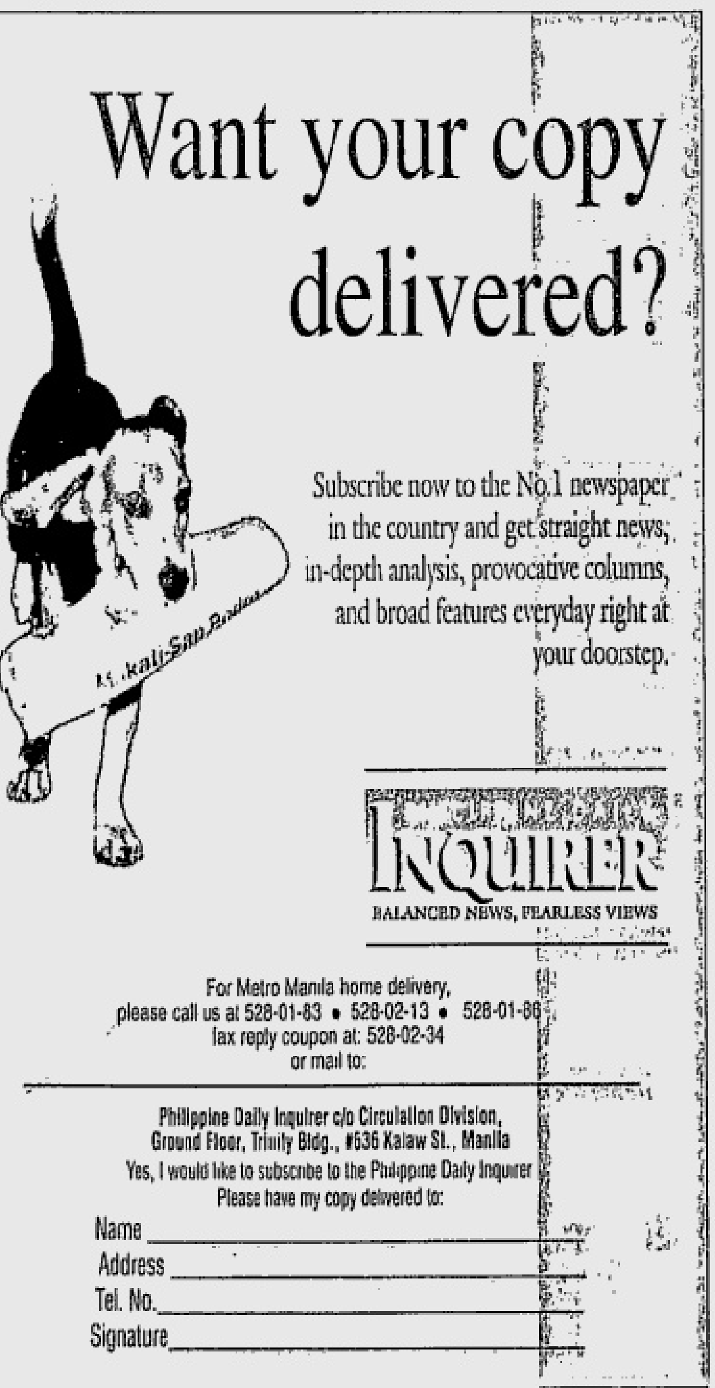
The two were granted amnesty during the tenure of ex-President Fidel Ramos and were able to return to the military service.

"At the time of our coup attempt, we only thought of our own motives. We discussed how we could take over the government. It was only in the latter part of the coup when our grievances surfaced. We were also willing to die," said Capuyan.

But the two said the officers and men who launched the Makati mutiny were not to be blamed for trying to use force in attaining their objectives.

"We were also young lieutenants like them when we staged a coup attempt," said Tomas.

The two said like in 1989, they believe that the Makati mutiny could have been funded by certain individuals.



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Palawan winning war on malaria, say health, provincial execs

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan is winning the battle against malaria. Two decades ago, when the province was not yet recognized as a prime tourist destination, it was a dreaded place because of malaria and leprosy in an island converted into a leprosarium.

Malaria was considered one of the five major causes of death in northern Palawan in 2001. Malaria patients from distant municipalities used to line up the corridor of the cramped provincial hospital to get medical attention.

The provincial government reported that the incidence of malaria cases dropped to 27 percent in 2002 compared to 2001.

This can be attributed to a program to fully eradicate malaria through the Kilusan Ligtas Malaria (KLM), jointly handled by the provincial government and Pilipinas Shell Foundation.

According to KLM program director Ray Angluben, their total project impact revealed that more than 10,000 were saved out of the dangers of malaria since the program started in 1999.

Awareness in the grassroots level has also increased. At the end of 2002, more than 60,000 underwent blood smearing to check for malaria. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Deal ends workers' strike at shipping firm

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Striking workers of Sulpicio Lines Inc. lifted their strike Thursday, after the management vowed to look into their complaints.

Lawyers of the shipping firm and the Unyon ng mga Mandaragat ng Sulpicio Lines and Solid Towage and Lighterage Company Inc. (UMSS) signed a memorandum of agreement during negotiations in Manila.

Ulysses Yap, Sulpicio lawyer based in Cebu, said the management agreed to look into the complaints of the striking employees.

The employees complained of illegal dismissal, suspension, reassignment, 15 to 20 hour work duties with only P1 in overtime pay and the P40 a day food allowance. Yap said all these complaints would be reviewed by the management.

Yap also said the agreement provided that the workers return to work without any sanctions. Yap said he had no other details of the agreement.

Carlos Go, Sulpicio Lines executive vice president, assured that the company would abide by the agreement's provisions.

The union members vowed not to stage another strike.

More than 900 unlicensed crew members of Sulpicio Lines staged a nationwide strike since Tuesday morning, which paralyzed operations of several inter-island vessels of the shipping firm.

The striking workers are affiliated with the Alliance of Nationalist and Genuine Labor Organization—Kilusang Mayo Uno (ANGLO-KMU).

Go said the two-day strike caused their company at least P30 million in losses. But he said they would not implement sanctions against the striking workers but would instead look into the complaints of the employees.

He said their operations normalized on Thursday morning as the MV Princess New Unity was allowed to sail for Manila after being anchored in waters off Pier 4 here since it arrived at 5 a.m. on Wednesday.

MV Princess of Unity failed to dock at Pier 4 because the strikers barred the vessel from docking when it arrived from General Santos City. It has a scheduled stopover in Cebu before it sails to Manila.

Coast Guard officials were alarmed on Wednesday evening when some reporters from Manila asked about the alleged seajacking of New Unity.

INQUIRER Visayas

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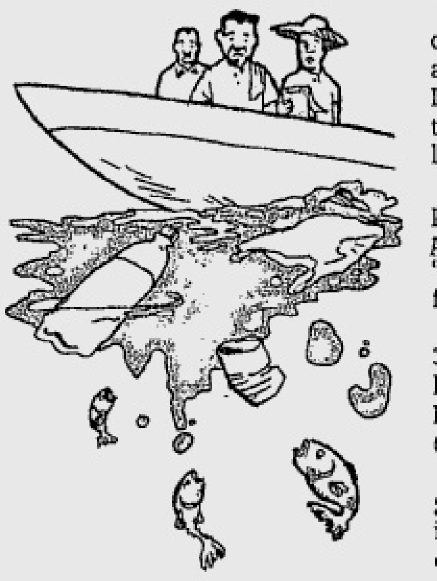
Bohol's missing paupers and trash fish

By Juan L. Mercado
Talibon, Bohol



THE DOCTOR from Quezon City, and now Miami, snapped his fingers. "I couldn't put my finger on it," he explained. "Now, I know what was missing."

"What?" I asked.

Dr. Rabin Sarda and I were watching students board pumpboats in the twilight. When classes end, the outriggers ferry them to homes on islets, off the placid town of Talibon on Bohol's eastern coastline.

"Beggars," the doctor said. "No panhandlers descended on us. There's none of the scrawny children who swarm the streets of Cebu, Davao or Manila."

Beggars flood into the town during fiestas, it was explained to us later. Grinding city poverty, however, does not visibly mar this birthplace of Pres. Carlos P. Garcia—still fondly remembered here, although his National Historical Commission plaque, in front of the newly painted town hall, is badly corroded.

Poverty's equally corrosive effects are all too real. It affects about 40 percent of the population.

Bohol ranked 25th out of 77 provinces, United Nations (UN) indicators show. [In human development, Rizal tops the list. Sulu limps in at the tail end.]

Life expectancy of Boholanos is 69 years. That's two years shorter than that of Cebuanos at 72. But it is 12 years longer than those in Lanao del Sur. "Life is the threshold at which all other hopes begin."

Three out of every 10 people here lack access to improved water sources. And seven out of every 100 children under 5 are ill fed and underweight.

Inequality

Inequality in Bohol resembles that of other places, say Bukidnon or Sorsogon. The richest 10 percent consume 30 centavos out of every peso. The poorest 10 percent make do with three centavos.

Thus, from an international perspective, Bohol is wedged somewhere between Vietnam and Indonesia, says Philippine Human Development Report 2002. Guimaras is crammed in that slot.

If one probes beyond these stark averages, what emerges? ask Asian Development Bank (ADB) lead economist Ernesto Pernia [a native of Bohol] and Arsenio Balisacan of the University of the Philippines' School of Economics.

In the ADB's Economics and Research Paper No. 7, Pernia and Balisacan try to pinpoint what may help people break out of penury. They marshal provocative "variables"—from political dynasties and terms of trade to agrarian reform—in their analysis of two decades of data.

One must slash through the jargon ["Growth elasticity of poverty tends to increase monotonically with income quintile."] But Pernia and Balisacan offer these findings:

"Growth is indeed good for the poor; [but] it is not good enough … Averages mask more than reveal the 'true' story about poverty, inequality and growth … "

Incomes of the poor don't march in lockstep with overall average incomes. "Growth is not sufficient, or nearly so, for poverty reduction." Changes in poverty, over time, depend not only on the rate but also on the type of economic growth.

Reformed policies

Behind averages are "substantial differences in the evolution of poverty across provinces … The poor will benefit even more from growth, if institutions and policies are reformed to favor them … as in India and Thailand."

"Political dynasties … constrain local economic growth but also restrict access of the poor to basic services … Lack of political competition hurts the lower-income groups, particularly the poorest."

Unless complemented by other public investments like schools, roads *per se* do not benefit the poor. But "roads raise directly the average welfare of the richest in society."

Out of every 100 students in Bohol, 33 graduate from high school, the UN has noted. That's on par with Marinduque but far behind Laguna's 60.

"High transport costs lead to 'geographic poverty traps' as the poor are impeded from taking advantage of economic opportunities elsewhere.

"Irrigation tends to have a pro-poor basis. Farm size does not have significant effects on the average welfare of all but the richest group.

"Other things being equal, agrarian reform raises the average of all" … except the richest. So does favoring the terms of trade for the farmers. But then, Pernia and Balisacan insist that their peek behind overall statistics is not the last word on penury.

"Probing beneath cross-national averages (will) better inform poverty reduction strategies and policies."

Indeed, other factors—from population growth, corruption and quality of governance to ecological decay—an embed penury.

'Trash fish'

The rusting boat for Talibon sloshes through plastic-strewn waters that were once pristine seas.

Its bow sails through all kinds of non-degradable garbage: shopping bags, juice containers, bottles, broken plates, etc. Untreated sewage, sludge, oil, chemicals and other garbage contaminate the waters turning it turgid.

Fishers are the first to encounter limits of the sea. All 17 of the world's major fishing areas reached—or exceeded—sustainable thresholds, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization warns.

Catches of valuable commercial fish have declined.

On Talibon's wharf, Dr. Sarda and I watch fishers unload their catches from battered sytrofoam boxes packed with ice.

Small stunted "trash fish" make up the bulk of the catch. They indicate depleting protein supplies for the poor who can't afford meat.

History tells us that "90 percent of the history of life on earth has taken place in the seas." And the coasts are the natural crossroads between man and the sea.

Now, plastic and dirt are sealing off that pathway.

Sacrifice

BREAKAWAY

Ivan Suansing

"IN CHESS," said the erstwhile master spy of the Armed Forces, "when a queen is beleaguered, it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice a knight to save the game."

I don't know if Victor Corpus pushes wood, slang for playing chess. In the early 1990s, he was well-known among Ilonggo journalists as a practicing environmentalist who passionately devoted himself to planting mahogany in a military camp in Capiz. He didn't tire of giving interviews about his green revolution.

His trees must be worth a fortune now, and he, a much more interesting subject.

Corpus, the wood pusher, must know something about sacrifices. That's the story of his life. He once sacrificed his career for the sake of his ideals. Now, he has sacrificed his job for the sake of, well, I don't know.

Chess players know that a real sacrifice is highly speculative and, without any guarantee of regaining the sacrificed piece, usually sprung to complicate the game and force the other.

There's also such a thing as a pseudo-sacrifice, which means just a temporary loss of material.

For example, in Queen's Gambit Accepted, a well-known opening, a pawn is lost on the second move, but is regained a few seconds later. Corpus' case will fall into this category if he's eventually promoted to a juicier post.

The sacrifice of the most powerful piece on the board, the queen, is the ultimate sacrifice. To sacrifice the queen, and force victory in an elegant way, is every chess player's dream.

For obvious reasons, Corpus couldn't make that allusion. So perhaps inspired no end by the great Ron Weasley, Harry Potter's sidekick, he chose instead to become a sacrificial knight, although to many kibitzers, he appeared more like the sacrificial lamb.

In this game, there's only one person who can make the queen sacrifice—the beleaguered President, whose neck Corpus is trying to save.

By foregoing her political agenda, she will no longer be beleaguered and can have her daily beauty sleep. To boot, she can help heal this country and show coup plotters that politicians, for once, are not incapable of keeping their word.

***

TRIANGLE OFFENSE. A grand total of three junior officers in Cebu threw their support behind the recent mutiny in Makati.

Don't laugh. They swore they had enough men just waiting in the wings for orders from Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and the rest of the self-anointed saviors of this Banana Republic.

At the height of the attempted power grab, they declared their intentions in a video presentation.

"We, the officers and men in Cebu, support the National Recovery Program to immediately address our national problems and stir our nation toward recovery," the spokesperson said.

They described their action as "peaceful support" but warned that they were "ready to mobilize anytime when necessary to take over government facilities."

It ended up as the second top story of the day, the runaway headline being the Makati mutiny itself. On ordinary days, it would have been easily the banner of all the local papers.

This brings us to an interesting observation. If Trillanes and the rest of his rebellious caboodle were as smart as they were supposed to be, why didn't they just call for a press conference? It would have gotten them the same media attention, minus the thrills and frills, not to mention danger, of an armed uprising.

It's a different story, however, if as many people suspect, they had a more radical objective than just airing their grievances against their leaders.

The way they perorated and pontificated, it was as if they wanted to replicate the Edsa I experience. But with just a handful of civilian supporters in Makati City and three brave officers in Cebu, they just succeeded in exposing themselves to a counterstrike.

Licking their bruised pride in their barracks, they should now know that in a democracy, nobody has the right to ram his idea, even if it sounds as lofty as a national recovery program, down other people's throats. They have to sell the idea in the marketplace of public opinion and wait for takers—if there's any.

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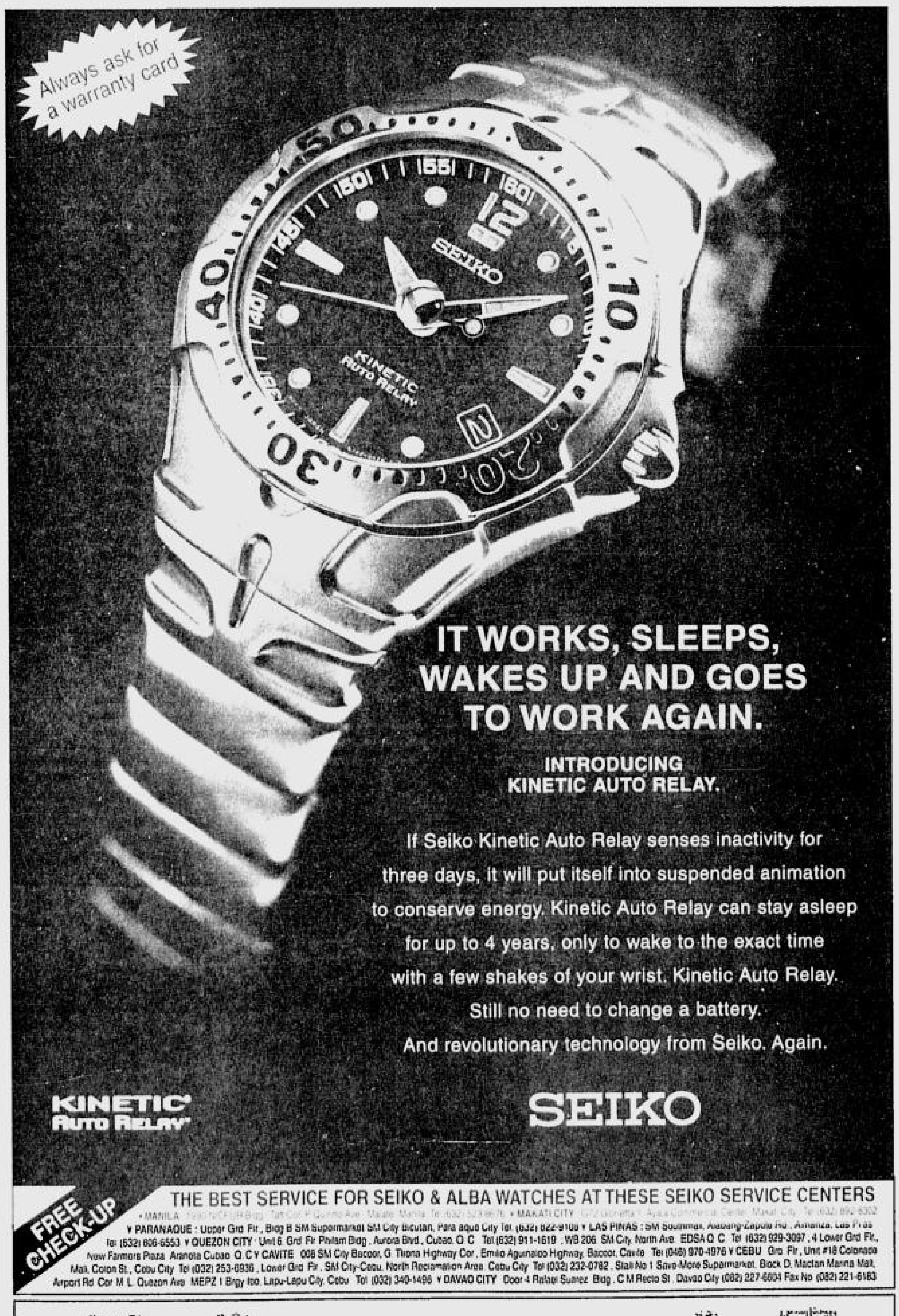

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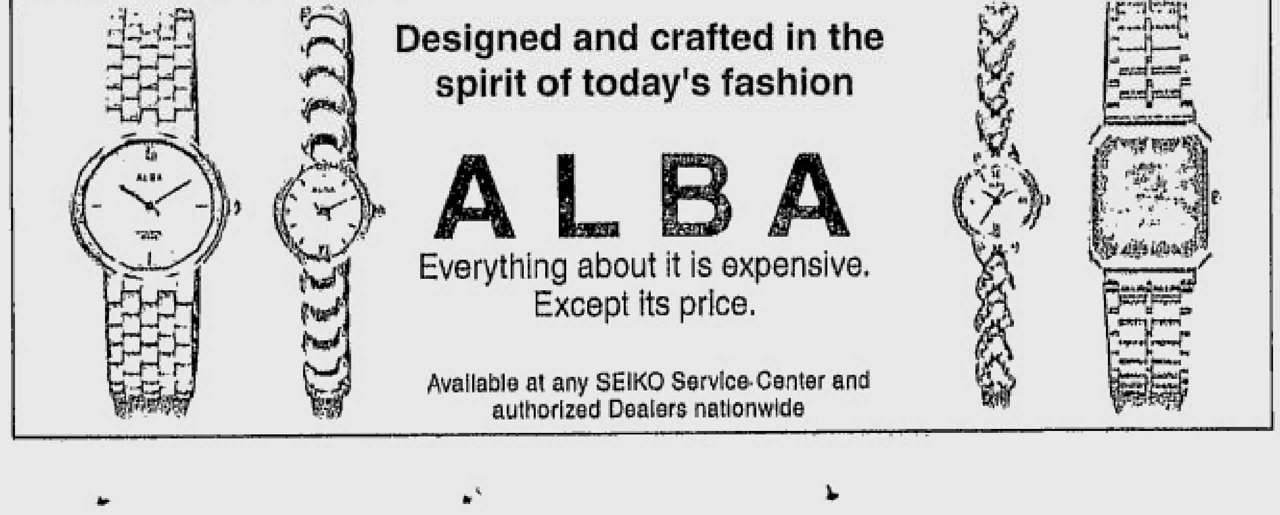

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Where is Gringo?

From page A1

"Being the experienced military person that he (Honasan) is, he is just thinking of possible contingency measures," Maceda said.

Underground?

Before Maceda went on the air, Rep. Gerry Espina had quoted him as saying in an earlier interview on Friday also over radio dzBB that Honasan had gone "underground."

Espina added that Honasan could have joined the still unknown civilian supporters of the mutineers who occupied the Oakwood luxury apartments.

But Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said the military had yet to confirm that Honasan had gone underground.

"If that's true, it's like saying that Senator Honasan is indeed one of the suspects in the mutiny."

Garcia, however, belittled the threat posed by Honasan's disappearance and the continued absence of an undetermined number of soldiers. *(Story on Page A1)*

Maceda recalled that Honasan had previously gone into hiding to evade arrest when the government tried to link himself, Honasan and former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile to the attack on Malacañang by supporters of then President Joseph Estrada on May 1, 2001.

Maceda and Enrile were briefly taken into custody by authorities but were released due to lack of evidence.

Last seen

Honasan was last seen in the Senate on Tuesday where he delivered an emotional and angry privileged speech denying any involvement in Sunday's mutiny by disgruntled junior officers who called themselves the Magdalo group.

In his speech,Honasan denied any involvment in the mutiny as he stressed that he helped paved the way for government to negotiate for the mutineers' surrender.

He further stressed that his family has been adversely affected by reports linking him to the mutiny, and that his children feared going to school because of adverse media reports about him.

Drilon assurance

He attended Tuesday's session only after Senate President Franklin Drilon got an assurance from Palace officials that he would not be arrested without a warrant issued by the courts.

The senator, a former Army colonel who figured in seven coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late '80s, also did not attend last Wednesday's inquiry by the House of Representatives.

In a phone interview, Honasan said that he had informed Drilon that he was skipping yesterday's hearing in the Senate.

Drilon told reporters yesterday that he could not confirm whether Honasan was hiding. He said he talked to the senator who told him that he "was just taking precaution as there might be some misguided elements, and therefore, he refrained from appearing in today's hearing although it is also good because then the public cannot say that the Senate inquiry had political color."

Lina grilled

Lina was grilled by opposition senators demanding he present evidence to back up allegations against Honasan.

Lina pointed out that less than three hours after the mutineers seized Oakwood and the Glorietta shopping complex, members of Honasan's Philippine Guardians Brotherhood attempted to join the renegade soldiers, telling police who prevented them from entering the hotel that they wanted to bring supplies to the rebels.

Lina further said they carried streamers saying, "Gringo is the hope of the nation."

"Gringo Honasan is also the supreme godfather of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood and the civilian component being mobilized was from the Guardians," Lina told the hearing. "It was not only coincidence … it was a planned, well-orchestrated coup d'état."

Besides circumstantial evidence, Lina said the government is prepared to present in court "independent evidence."

Persistent questions

At first, Lina refused to reveal evidence proving Honasan's culpability.

But after persistent questions from opposition Senators Pimentel, Angara, Vicente Sotto III, Panfilo Lacson and Biazon, Lina was forced to cite circumstantial evidence culled before, during and after the coup.

He maintained that the rebellion had a strong "civilian component."

Prior to the mutiny, Lina received information on the mobilization of soldiers and civilians.

He said that at 2 a.m. Sunday, civilians were seen in Makati, while at 5:30 a.m. a throng of about 150 rallyists were moving towards Ayala Avenue.

Also, 50 members of the Honasan faction of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. were sighted in the Magallanes area, also in Makati, said Lina.

And at 8:30 a.m, another group of guardians was also sighted on Edsa toward Makati.

He said that streamers extolling Honasan's National Recovery Program (NRP), banners emblazoned with "Gringo, Pag-asa ng Bayan," and other paraphernalia were "not just a mere coincidence."

There was also the use of Honasan's platform of government, the National Recovery Program, as the rebels' bible.

"On its face (the NRP) is not wrong. But the coup that was being staged was going to enforce the NRP."

Drilon clarified that the inquiry's ultimate objective was not to determine the guilt or culpability of anybody.

"This hearing is being called in aid of legislation and in exercise of the oversight functions of the Senate" over the use of intelligence funds and the Armed Forces of the Philippines," Drilon said.

Drilon divided the hearing into two parts: First, an inquiry into the role of Honasan and second, the alleged grave threats on the life of the mutineers' core group. *With a report from INQ7.net*

GMA met Trillanes …

From page A1

when the officer sought refuge in Malacañang because of a death threat from an unknown source.

But Trillanes did not answer when asked whether he and his fellows had proof of the accusations and why they were holding back on the reforms undertaken by the government to tackle these issues, Bangit said.

He also said Trillanes admitted that Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan acted as their group's adviser.

Bangit said Trillanes met with the President at 7 a.m. on July 13 in Malacañang but did not tell her of the alleged involvement of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes in the Davao bombings.

The meeting focused on soldiers' lack of housing and low pay and the alleged corruption in the military, Bangit said, adding that Trillanes probably got nervous when he came face to face with the President.

Bangit said he told the President about the allegations on the Davao bombings and ammunition sales shortly after Trillanes left Malacañang.

By Bangit's account, Trillanes narrated that he first touched base with Honasan in 2002, when their class had a fund-raising activity. A few weeks later, Trillanes was asked to help draw up Honasan's National Recovery Program (NRP), specifically on the corruption issue.

"There were other people who helped in drawing up other sections of the NRP, such as electoral and educational reforms," Bangit quoted Trillanes as saying.

Magdalo cult

Bangit further quoted Trillanes as telling him that there had been increasing reports of restiveness in the military because the Magdalo group got bigger.

Trillanes supposedly said the group had been transformed into a cult of sorts, wherein members had to undergo a ritual involving marking letters near their armpits and wiping their blood on the flag.

Bangit said Trillanes claimed that he did not take part in the rituals. Trillanes also declined to identify the group's leader.

After meeting with the President, Trillanes thought she was impressed by their talk, Bangit said.

The junior officer also thought the President and Honasan should join forces because they have the same work ethic, Bangit said.

The PSG chief said that Trillanes sought refuge in Malacañang because of a threat on his life, and that they could not trace the call because it was made through a pre-paid SIM card.

He also said Trillanes was afraid for his life because the Magdalo group had a pact to keep their activities and plans under wraps.

Bangit said Malacañang decided to disclose the discussions with Trillanes "to prove that [he] was not set up as he had claimed because he came here to ask for help."

Magdangal's account

The President was visibly annoyed by reports that Trillanes had told his classmates that she had met with him in her pajamas and that she nearly spat at him.

"It was a Sunday, so I was in my residence and I was in my jogging suit," she said on Thursday at the Manila Overseas Press Club President's Night.

Ms Macapagal allowed her aide, Capt. Christopher Magdangal, to relate his conversation with Trillanes on July 13.

By Magdangal's account, Trillanes sent a text message to him at 8 p.m. on July 12: "Bok, can I see you asap. *May titira daw sa akin* (Someone's out to get me)."

Trillanes was brought to Malacañang at 3 a.m. on July 13. He spoke with Magdangal and Bangit for several hours before he met the President at 7 a.m.

Magdangal said he was amazed that the President entertained Trillanes for one and a half hours. He said she normally entertained guests for only 30 minutes.

The President said that during her meeting with Trillanes, he gave her a copy of his paper detailing corruption in the Navy and a copy of Honasan's NRP, and related their organization and their dealings with the opposition.

Ms Macapagal said she immediately directed Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, Navy flag officer in command, to look into the supposed corruption in the Navy, and AFP chief Gen. Narciso Abaya to set up a grievance procedure.

She said the "good guys of [PMA] Class '95" were the ones who opened the door for the peaceful solution of the July 27 mutiny.

"Let no others claim that they were the ones who did it," she said.

6 mutineers only a minute away from House

From page A1

ate, sitting as a committee of the whole, was informed at the start of the hearing that the officers had not been cleared again. The senators held a caucus and agreed to ask the military to explain their reasons for barring the officers' appearance and the security threats during the hearing itself.

Senate President Franklin Drilon informed the senators that Golez had "committed" to eventually present the Magdalo leaders.

"It is only a question of venue, whether or not it is in this hearing or in Camp Aguinaldo as requested by Golez allegedly because of grave security considerations," Drilon said.

No threat?

In a press briefing at the Senate, lawyers Roel Pulido and Reynaldo Robles, counsel for the officers, said their clients were brought back to Camp Aguinaldo the other day for unknown reasons.

"We were already one minute away from the House," said Robles.

He also said there could have been no security threat to the six officers because "they were only lightly guarded."

He said there were only two motorcycle escorts, one van for the six soldiers and their guard escorts, and the lawyers' car.

He said the threat of a sniper attack on the convoy bearing the six soldiers was a lame excuse.

But at the hearing, Golez explained why he invoked security considerations: "their security is intertwined with national security considering the significance of many things we're looking into, the extent of the conspiracy, what other plans they have, who are the people behind them."

He said that if anything untoward happened to the officers, it could have resulted in a "terrible embarrassment to the government affecting the country's image" and "the possibility that they could be silenced and therefore, not be able to give us more information of the overall problem."

He added: "The security threat is having to transport this core group from Camp Aguinaldo to this place, traversing a long area where the road is very slow because of the traffic. They're exposing them to risk along the way."

He also said the authorities were concerned about a possible sniper attack, noting that the mutineers were known to be a "sniper group and potentially a very dangerous group."

Abaya said that based on intelligence reports, the "whole conspiracy has not been uncovered."

Chilling

The threat from the unaccounted for conspirators cannot be underestimated, he said. It would "be imprudent to transport the officers and unnecessarily expose them to possible risks, including that of their personal safety."

Abaya disclosed that during the height of the mutiny, "one of the most chilling" pieces of information the government got was that one officer, the course director of the Sniper Course of the Scout Ranger regiment, had left his post, bringing with him sniper weapons.

A mix-up

Abaya said there was a mix-up the other day because Isafp deputy director Marlo Quevedo apparently thought that the mutiny leaders were cleared to attend the hearing conducted by the House committee on national defense.

"When I asked Quevedo why he allowed the six officers to get out of the Isafp compound, he said he was acting on the memorandum of (AFP legislative liaison officer) Gen. (Lito) Gamit which was addressed to me," Abaya told the senators.

He said he did not expect Gamit's memo to him would be directly given to Quevedo, prompting the mix-up.

Abaya told Angara, who was questioning him, that Gamit's memo had attached the House invitation for him, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Brig. Gen. Vic Corpus to attend the Wednesday hearing. In the invitation, he said, he had placed a stamp indicating his acceptance of the invitation but he stressed this was only for him and not the rest of the invitees.

When Angara asked him whether he had been directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo not to present the junior officers to Congress, Abaya said no. Angara told him of a report that the President met with Cabinet members and some administration senators for lunch on Tuesday, when she allegedly directed them not to "glamorize" the rebel leaders and not to allow them to attend the congressional hearing.

Lawyer to raise hell

"We will raise hell about that," said lawyer Homobono Adaza. "That's a violation of the Constitution and the laws."

Adaza charged that security officials of the Macapagal administration wanted "to gag them into silence."

"Until today, they have asked me not to tell you everything yet," said Pulido, a member of the Alpha Sigma fraternity which also counts Sen. Gregorio Honasan and housing czar Michael Defensor as members.

Real agreement

"My clients don't want to disclose to you yet the real agreements in the sincere belief that these people who negotiated with them would actually honor the agreements."

He disclosed that the general agreements included the return to barracks by the soldiers.

PNP road blocks check troop movements

From page A1

Malacañang Palace and police nationwide were on high alert.

The heightened security came as the Department of Justice filed coup charges against 321 elite soldiers now in custody over the siege at the Oakwood hotel in Makati City on July 27.

But a security risk analyst with close ties to both military and police told Reuters that commanders were monitoring movements of as many as 1,500 troops—including two battalions of elite Scout Rangers, one Special Forces battalion and 250 Marines.

"There doesn't seem to be any intelligence saying that this is an authorized move," said the analyst, who asked not to be named. "There's something amiss with troop movements."

Military commanders warned that the situation remained volatile after the ninth Army uprising in 17 years.

"The threat coming from unaccounted for conspirators cannot be underestimated," Armed Forces Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya told a Senate defense committee investigating the uprising.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said "only a few" troops were unaccounted for and that commanders had held meetings "to knock sense into the heads of these officers who may be contemplating joining the Oakwood people."

Garcia admitted that the military has mounted a hunt for officers and enlisted personnel who had gone absent without official leave (Awol) from their units several days ago.

"We are still tracking down some people who are reported to be Awol from their respective units," he said at a press briefing, but could not give figures of those who had gone absent.

Garcia confirmed that "the bulk" of the 100 soldiers earlier reported missing had been accounted for and did not leave their units after realizing that "it was folly" to join the mutiny.

"We have found out that many of this supposed 100 who were supposed to link up with the mutineers at Oakwood last July 27 did not actually move from their respective units," he said.

Police have set up checkpoints to monitor possible troop movements from Northern Luzon, NPD director Marcelino Franco Jr. told the Inquirer yesterday.

"We are still on alert. The Northern Police District is maintaining checkpoints and monitoring teams for possible movements," Franco said.

However, he did not identify the areas police are closely monitoring. *Reports from TJ Burgonio, Edson Tandoc Jr., INQ7.net and Reuters*

GMA-business feud simmers: No apology

From page A1

Industry vice president Donald Dee, who warned the other day that an indefinite state of rebellion may be more harmful to the economy than the failed coup itself, pointed out that businessmen had merely aired their honest views on the Oakwood incident.

"We only want the government to address the issues raised by the soldiers without going into politics or personalities that might sidetrack the main issue of corruption in the military," Dee said.

Romulo was unavailable for comment and MBC executive director Guillermo Luz declined to issue a statement.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President had merely expressed her disappointment. "They were not very vocal about their support at the time when she really needed the support during the actual siege. They did not make any public statements condemning the siege," Bunye said.

But both Concepcion and Dee noted that they were actually in Malacañang on Sunday morning to express their support for a "constitutional democracy" and their condemnation of the junior officers' use of force to express their grievances.

Concepcion and Dee were part of a long line of Cabinet officials, military personnel, lawmakers, local officials and other personalities who showed up at the Malacañang briefing room on the day of the mutiny to reiterate their faith in the President and their condemnation of the mutineers.

When this fact was brought to Bunye's attention, he conceded that a few business representatives did express support for the President that fateful Sunday morning. Bunye said the President would meet with business groups in "due time."

Camacho reaction

The country's chief economic manager toed the President's line.

While he said he was generally worried about the economic backlash of the weekend mutiny and its lingering effect on the peso, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the private sector should mind its own business and not interfere in the affairs of government, especially on issues of national security.

"The business community should not second-guess the government on how to deal with the problem. They should allow the government to do its job because if you want the government to be effective, then the government should use all the tools available to solve the problem," Camacho said.

But he admitted that the failed mutiny and talk of another coup against the administration have put the peso under undue pressure.

The peso fell to P54.96 to $1 yesterday but managed to close only 15 centavos lower from Thursday at P54.87, its lowest since March 19. Traders said the peso is edging closer to P55 every day.

Ganging up on peso

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that a confluence of factors has been ganging up on the peso and the political unrest was making matters worse.

"The yen is down so it's partly regional. Its also seasonal because of the importation towards Christmas. During month-end, the demand for dollars is also heavier. And then we have all these unfortunate events starting from (the escape from Camp Crame of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman) Al-Ghozi, followed by coup rumors and eventually the failed mutiny."

Buenaventura said the central bank stayed away from the market but traders spotted the BSP dumping between $15 and $20 million on the spot market to no avail.

"There is no sense in intervening because at some point, we see some exporters selling their dollars," said the BSP chief.

Camacho said "all the noise" was not helping the economy.

"The negative things we hear are all noise. We have to subordinate other concerns, especially when it comes to the issue of national security."

'It doesn't mean that if someone is good-looking he is not a criminal'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is standing by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes despite accusations of corruption and mismanagement made against him by rebel soldiers.

"They want Angie to resign because they want to weaken me. I will not fall into their trap," Ms Macapagal said on Thursday during the President's Night of the Manila Overseas Press Club.

She also said she wanted to keep her security team intact because she still had full confidence in Reyes.

The President said the Philippines would be free from coup attempts as long as the public backed her efforts to bring the mutineers to justice.

"If you support me and make sure that we bring the criminals to justice, no matter how good-looking they are, this will be the last coup [attempt]," she said, adding:

"It doesn't mean that if someone is good-looking he is not a criminal." *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

'State of rebellion prelude to martial rule'

From page A1

Ocampo recalled that as the rebel soldiers were vacating the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments in Makati late Sunday, President Macapagal-Arroyo was declaring on nationwide TV that the crisis was over. "But all of a sudden, they're now saying that the threat is not yet over," he noted.

Another party-list representative was more emphatic in warning that the state of rebellion was "a prelude to martial law."

"Let us all be vigilant and let's not be deceived by scenarios to be cooked up by agents of the government to justify the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, warrantless arrests, and the declaration of martial law," Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said in a statement.

Magtubo said there appeared to be some truth to the rebel soldiers' claim that martial law was imminent.

He said that in spite of the President's denial, "it looks like she will push ahead with what the Magdalo group warned was her plan to declare martial law, hence this continuing state of rebellion."

He warned that if Ms Macapagal intended to extend her term through martial law, she would suffer the same fate as the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The President, however, said the state of rebellion would remain in effect "until we wrap up the residual threats."

"This must not be cause for undue alarm, but we do not want our people to develop a false sense of complacency," she said.

The President said the state of rebellion would be "a mantle of protection for our people as they go on with their day-to-day activities."

"Normalization has set in and must not be disturbed, but the need for vigilance is there and our eyes and ears should be open around the clock," she said.

She also said the July 27 mutiny should be the last time military adventurism was allowed to rear its head.

"Poverty, terrorism, drugs, ignorance, disease—these are enemies we must vanquish without having to contend with traitors within the democratic polity itself," she added.

'Something deep'

Ocampo said the government appeared bent on maintaining the state of rebellion.

He cited the statement made by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya that the military could not yet account for all the officers and soldiers involved in the Oakwood takeover.

Abaya told the House committee on national defense Thursday and the Senate on Friday that these unaccounted for officers and men posed a threat to national stability.

Ocampo also noted authorities' statements that the uprising had military and civilian components, and said: "So this is something deep."

"There is the danger that operating [military and police] units will become overzealous," he added.

But the President pointed out that there was "an overt attempt to overthrow the government by force of arms."

"Once and for all, let us show to our people and the world that we condemn all means to gain political power outside the ballot. This is our solemn duty," she said, addressing the senators and congressmen conducting their respective inquiries on the July 27 mutiny.

Criminal justice

"I ask members of the legislature not to legitimize a criminal act that unfolded before our very eyes, or try to impede government efforts to get to the root of the plot," she said.

Ms Macapagal also said her administration was not engaged in political persecution but in pursuit of criminal justice against coup plotters.

But she stressed that she was withholding judgment pending completion of the investigation of the alleged links of ousted President Joseph Estrada, his allies and even Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan to the mutiny.

"The issue here is plain criminal justice, not political persecution or harassment," she said. "All government actions are based on evidence, not speculation or rumor."

The President said there would be no indictment of coup participants based on mere suspicion.

"This will not be a political circus. It will be a trial on the merits befitting the high standards of our democratic system," she said.

'Make it definite'

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines, through its national president Jose Anselmo Cadiz, said the continued curtailment of civil liberties could not go on forever.

"[The state of rebellion] should not be an indefinite thing. There should be a definite timetable," Cadiz said. "I don't think it should compromise the civil liberties of citizens."

Cadiz said he understood why the government did not lift the state of rebellion even after the rebel soldiers had surrendered. "Even soldiers have followers. So the AFP is trying to ferret out the participants," he said.

"[But] there must be a definite period. We cannot be left hanging. It cannot go on for a long time," he said.

On Thursday, businessmen said the continuing state of rebellion was hurting the economy instead of assuring investors.

Opposition senators had also said the state of rebellion was not found in the country's statutes.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said they would question before the Supreme Court the legality of Malacañang's declaration of a state of rebellion.

Cadiz, however, said he was in support of the President's decision to declare a state of rebellion at the height of the mutiny on Sunday.

"The government cannot be held powerless in the face of a mutiny," he said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Martin P. Marfil*

New Isafp chief . . .

From page A1

ly with his present post, the deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J2).

"He spent 20 years of his career in intelligence work. He is good in psy-ops (psychological operations). He is good at intelligence work," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said in a phone interview.

Cabuay had earned praises for leading the capture of New People's Army leaders, including Dela Cruz and Arturo Tabara in the '90s, a source said.

"He was good at it," said Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, the former police intelligence chief and now the police director for Cebu, who also became famous in the '80s for capturing top-ranking NPA leaders, including Satur Ocampo and Romulo Kintanar.

"He's a silent operator but very decisive. He's in the league of Robert Delfin," said an Army official, who asked not to be named.

Field assignments

A direct commissioned officer in 1973, Cabuay had served as battalion commander in Jolo and Negros. He was later assigned to the Army's Intelligence Security Group, which he later headed, the source said.

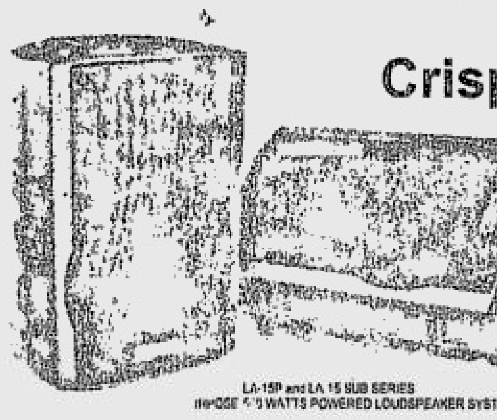
He went on to serve as brigade commander in Quezon and commander of the light armored brigade in Tarlac. Then he was named deputy chief of staff for civil military operations (J7) before being appointed deputy chief for intelligence early this year.

The soft-spoken Cabuay never issues any information about any operation except during press briefings. If he's contacted by phone, he would always remind the reporter that anything he says should not be used for publication.

Cabuay is a native of San Carlos City, Pangasinan. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Sto. Tomas. He obtained his bachelor of laws degree at the St. Louis University in Baguio and his master's in management from the Philippine Christian University.

He went for several training courses abroad, including an infantry officer advanced course in Fort Benning, Georgia, USA and vital installation security course in Louisiana. He also attended the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Italy.

Cabuay has received several military awards, including the Distinguished Service Star, Outstanding Achievement Medal, Military Merit Medals, Bronze Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Star, the second highest award in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.



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Palace bares plot . . .

From page A1

Recalling Ms Macapagal's movements on July 27, Tiglao said the President walked several times from the Palace across the roadway and garden to the dining room of the adjacent executive building between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to meet with her officials and elected leaders to thank them for their support and listen to their reports and proposals.

Sniper rifles

"This was despite warnings from the intelligence community and the [PSG] that there was an assassination plan against her, a report which was bolstered by the fact that among those rogue military men were two marksmanship instructors who had long-range Barret and Crowbar sniper rifles and by the fact that the rogue military men had sophisticated explosive devices," Tiglao wrote.

Bangit relayed the same information when he appeared at yesterday's press briefing in Malacañang.

"What we received were reports that there were rogue soldiers who had brought weapons with them, like Barret and sniper rifles. Based on our experience, those could only be used for assassination and killing of possible targets," he said.

Bangit said the President was always included in any list of assassination targets.

"We are doing everything to secure the President, and we ask our people [to help]. This should be everybody's effort. We need the preservation of the President and the chiefs of government," he said.

Security around Malacañang was again tightened yesterday, with Palace guards inspecting all vehicles meticulously.

The President had said that not all the plotters, as well as their financiers and supporters, had been accounted for.

"As Colonel Bangit said, the President has always been included in any possible plot," Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said. "Well, the appropriate measures are being undertaken by the security group."

Undisclosed info

In his letter to Doronila, Tiglao revealed information about the President's actions on July 27 that he said were not reported because it was not disclosed to the media at the time.

He included the information about the assassination attempt by way of trying to complete the timeline or chronology of events of the mutiny that the INQUIRER published on July 28.

Tiglao wrote that between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. of Sunday, when the mutiny was in full swing, the President received reports from military commanders in the field on the status of their troops.

"All affirmed their units' loyalty to their Commander in Chief and the Constitution," he said.

Tiglao said Ms Macapagal conferred with her close-in military aides, Lt. Christopher Magdangal and Capt. Jose Malig who, with the aides of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes belonging to Philippine Military Academy Classes 1994 and '95, agreed to go to the Oakwood Premier serviced apartments to convince their classmates to end the mutiny.

He said the President then met with key officials "to firm up a game plan to squash the mutiny."

Completing his report, he said:

"Plans for sending several emissaries to the mutineers in order to peacefully end the mutiny were presented and approved. Among such informal emissaries are former [Armed Forces] Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedes Santiago and PMA Superintendent Gen. Ed Adan.

"Military officials briefed the President on the military game plan to neutralize the mutineers if they did not give up."

"The events of July 27 even constitute a defining moment that demonstrated [her] leadership and A-1 crisis management," Tiglao said. "I personally found it quite remarkable that [she] was so intellectually and emotionally in control that she could even work on her Sona (State of the Nation Address) scheduled the next day in the lull periods between meetings and one-on-one conferences with her officials."

Still Awol

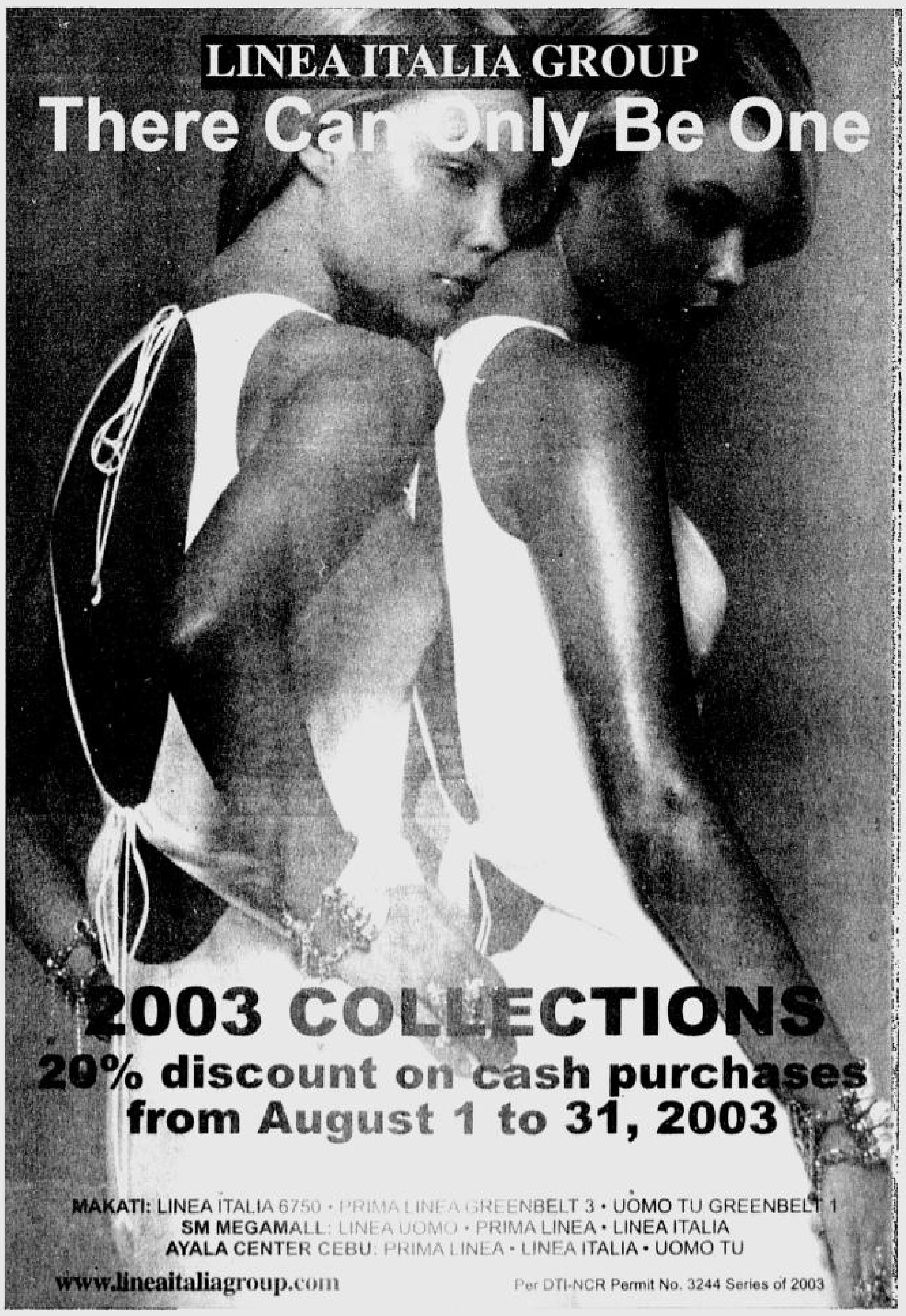
Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, admitted at a press briefing that the military was "still tracking down" officers and enlisted personnel who had been absent without official leave from their units since several days ago.

He could not say how many were being hunted.

He cited several reasons for officers going Awol, including "they may have wanted to and tried to link up, but were not able to do so, with their colleagues at Oakwood."

Garcia said "a bulk" of the 100 soldiers earlier reported missing had been accounted for and did not leave their units after realizing that "it was folly" to join the mutiny.

"We have found out that many of the supposed 100 that were supposed to link up with the mutineers at Oakwood last July 27 did not actually move from their respective units," he said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Reuters*



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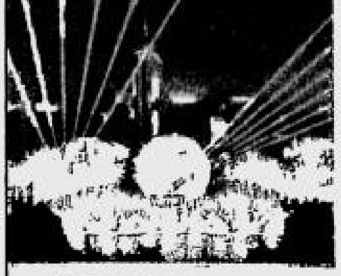


JOAN BONDOC

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada in a phone interview after his hearing at the Sandiganbayan.

Erap . . .

From page A1

last Sunday.

But he said he would have done so only if he were "recognized as the legitimate President because I am the legitimate President."

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Estrada said all the talk about him being restored to power might just be "plain rumors."

He noted that one of the coup scenarios would eventually remove him from the reclaimed presidency in three weeks, if the putsch had succeeded.

Estrada said the most convincing version was the one that told of a plan to put up a 15-man junta, as indicated in documents found at the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati which the renegade soldiers took over for 19 hours last Sunday.

Not in junta

He noted that his name was never mentioned or included in the 15-man council.

Answering questions from reporters following a hearing at the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court yesterday, Estrada was asked if he opposed moves to bring down the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said "that thought has not crossed my mind."

Estrada, who is being tried on plunder charges, said he strongly supported the cause of the rebel soldiers, including the means they employed to attain it.

He praised the mutineers and said he admired them for standing up for their cause but denied any involvement in the plot.

Asked whether the mutiny was justified, he replied: "I believe so because they are idealistic. But they did not fire a shot nor did they harm anybody. They even released their foreign hostages."

He asked the government to go slow on the renegade soldiers as he said they had not done anything "seriously bad" for the country.

Estrada's lawyer, Alan Paguia, tried to stop him from answering questions.

Paguia later clarified that had Estrada listened to him, he would have advised the ousted leader to say that he was sticking to the constitutional means of returning to power.

Paguia said what the rebel soldiers did was "unconstitutional."

But Estrada said what the rebel soldiers did was not a crime and they should not be subjected to a court martial or jailed for the offense.

"I believe they had no intention of hurting anybody. There was no crime. They should only pay Oakwood for its loss of income," he said.

Although he acknowledged that the economy was affected by the coup, he said it would redound to the common good.

"If we attend to the grievances of the soldiers and we stamp out corruption, there will be more gains for our people," he said.

Asked why his people were seen marching towards Makati last Sunday in support of the rebel soldiers, Estrada replied: "That is not my call if they want to support the idealistic soldiers."

Admire Trillanes

Estrada denied knowing or having met any of the rebel soldiers, including their spokesperson, Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes.

"But I admire him. I admire Trillanes because of his cause," Estrada told dzBB radio.

In the same interview, Estrada deplored what he said was a scheme by the government to "plant evidence" to link his family to the failed coup.

He claimed that the San Juan police had caught several military intelligence agents trying to plant evidence in the house of his son, Jinggoy, on Wednesday night.

But he said the police let the agents go after receiving a call from a high Armed Forces intelligence official.

Estrada did not reveal their names nor was he willing to charge them in court.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, deputy military chief of staff for intelligence, has alleged that Jinggoy's office was used as a "safehouse" by the rebel troops during the final phase of preparations for the mutiny.

Estrada claimed two other houses that were also raided by police were vacant and had not been rented for two to three years.

The owners—his aide Ramon Cardenas and his mistress Laarni Enriquez—had entrusted the houses to real estate brokers, he said.

Cardenas, a former undersecretary in Estrada's Cabinet, has been charged with rebellion.

Police said Cardenas' house was used as a staging ground for the mutiny, and that firearms, documents, backpacks, radios and other materials were seized from the residence. *With a report from AP*

WPD chief: No loyalty check, just cops expressing their support

By Leila Salaverria

POLICE officials were not checking on the loyalty of their men, they were just asking the men to throw their support behind government.

Western Police District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the manifesto that came out of Camp Crame merely denounced the July 27 mutiny.

Bulaong yesterday said that he did not know of any loyalty check being conducted on the police.

"(What policemen were asked to sign was) a manifesto of support for the government," Bulaong told reporters. "The junior officers just want to express their support."

Bulaong was referring to the one-page manifesto sent to three police districts in Metro Manila.

Clipped to the manifesto found in one of the units at the WPD headquarters was a handwritten note on Bulaong's stationery.

The note read: "Fax to all station chiefs for the signature of all junior officers and submit to CDDS (Chief District Directorial staff) NLT (not later than) 1200H 31 July."

The manifesto was circulated among junior police officers amid reports that breakaway military units are set to engage in more destabilization moves.

In the manifesto, the weekend takeover of the Oakwood Premier Hotel at the Glorietta mall in Makati City has been described as a "politically motivated" activity and a "betrayal of our oath and duty to defend the republic and duly constituted authorities."

The statement also criticized the "unnamed leaders and politicians ... who deliberately misled and manipulated the officers and men of the mutiny."

The manifesto likewise decried the mutiny for the damage it had wrought on the country's economy.

But the decision of the mutineers to return to barracks and face the consequences of their acts were commended in the manifesto.

The last two points raised in the manifesto were a declaration of the continued belief in the "rule of law and supremacy of the civilian authority over the military and police," and a pledge to "defend the Constitution and follow the chain of command at all times."

BuCor bares drug convict's bribe attempt

By Margaux Ortiz

THE CONVICTED Chinese drug trafficker, who allegedly was caught with shabu during a surprise raid at the National Bilibid Prisons (NBP) last week, is now trying to bribe his way out of his disciplinary cell.

This report came after prison authorities at the Muntinlupa City facility yesterday seized half a kilo of suspected shabu and a .45-caliber pistol from some of the inmates.

According to Bureau of Corrections Director Dionisio Santiago, constant pressure and negotiations with inmates in Building 1 resulted in yesterday's weapon and drug haul.

Building 1 inside the maximum security compound is home to death row inmates.

But the prisons chief said that despite yesterday's accomplishment, he is still far from satisfied.

Santiago said he believes that the inmates are hiding more than just one pistol.

"I am sure that they are keeping armalites and grenades inside the building," Santiago said, vowing that he will do everything to pressure the inmates in surrendering the weapons.

Santiago also revealed that he has received information that people close to drug convict Peter Co have raised P2 million in bribe money.

The corrections chief said these people are planning to bribe Department of Justice officials to pressure him to release Co from the disciplinary cell or "bartolina."

"The bartolina is breaking (Co) down," Santiago told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Santiago said that the Chinese convict constantly breaks into hysterical fits inside the small, cramped disciplinary cell.

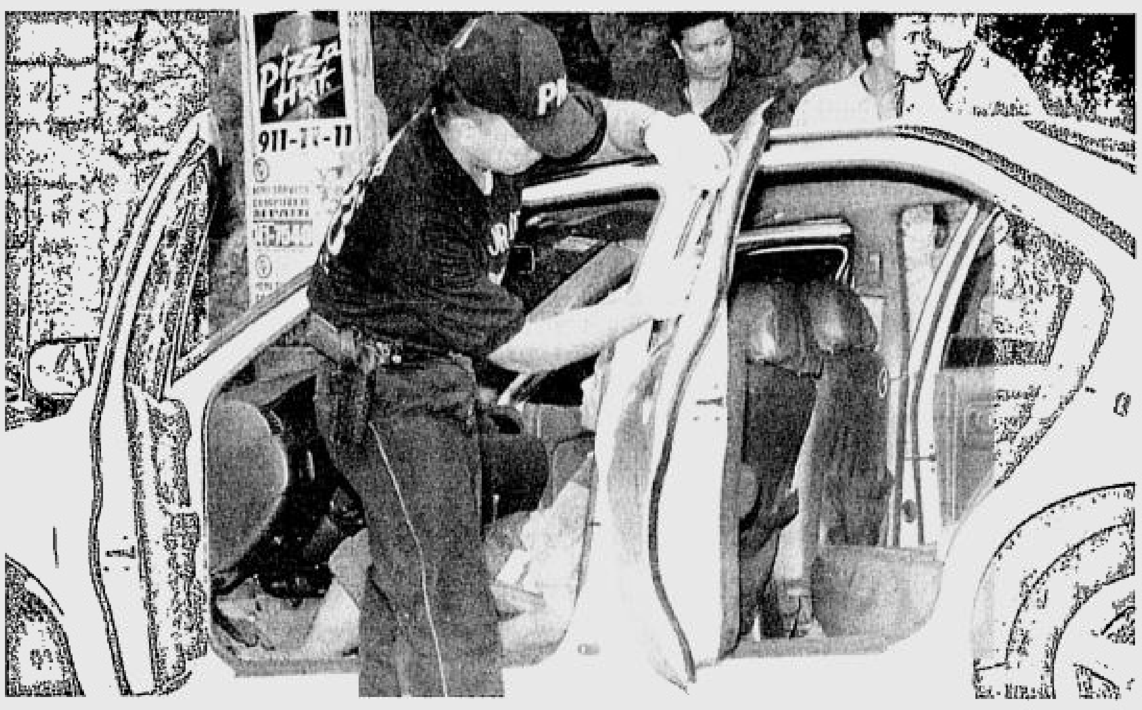
He added that Co's hysteria and hallucinations may be symptoms of withdrawal from illegal drugs.

"I'm saying all these to preempt future pressure (on the bureau) to release Co," Santiago said. "(Co's friends) know I will never yield to bribery."

He also revealed that a close friend of Co's family in Taiwan met with him recently.

The person said Co's family is now "bleeding" financially because the convict constantly has been asking for cash to bribe the wardens, according to Santiago.

"The cash Co received from his family enabled him to do whatever he wanted, like getting hold of illegal drugs inside Bilibid," Santiago admitted.



A LAWMAN goes over the bullet-riddled sedan containing the bodies of two suspected car thieves killed in a gun battle in Quezon City yesterday. RANDY HORMILLOSA

2 alleged car thieves shot to death in QC

TWO SUSPECTED car thieves were killed in a shootout with policemen early yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Members of the Traffic Management Group of the National Capital Region Police Office were on patrol when they spotted suspects Roberto Gonzales, 23, and Gonzalo Peralta, 35, on board a white Nissan sedan (TSL-371) on Araneta Avenue corner Quezon Avenue at around 5:30 a.m., according to a police report.

The car has been reported missing since 1995, police said.

When the lawmen signaled the suspects to stop, the driver instead sped away, prompting the police to give them a chase.

Upon reaching Banawe Street, one of the suspects reportedly fired on the lawmen. The police fired back and chased the suspects until they reached Biak na Bato Street near the corner of Maria Clara Street, in Barangay Sto. Domingo.

When the smoke cleared, the suspects were already dead, police said.

The lawmen recovered the .38-caliber and .45-caliber pistols of the suspects, both residents of Pasay City. *Tina Santos*

3 Chinese yield P60M in shabu

By Tina Santos

LAWMEN on Thursday seized about 30 kilos of shabu worth P60 million from three suspected Chinese drug dealers during a buy-bust operation in Quezon City, police reported yesterday.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, National Capital Region Police Office chief, yesterday said suspects Zhang Shang Ming, 38, of Sampaloc, Manila, Alex Tan Lim, 40, of Samson Road, Caloocan, and Robert Ong Cruz, 32, of Mabini Street, Manila, were arrested at around 11 a.m. at the Eastwood parking lot in Libis, Quezon City.

Velasco said the suspects, all natives of Fookien, China, had been under surveillance for a month.

A team under SP02 Eraldo Lectura arrested the suspects after an undercover policeman handed over marked cash in payment for the shabu he was supposed to buy from the Chinese.

Aside from the 30 kilos of shabu, the lawmen also seized two Toyota Altis cars (XHS 712 and XGB 605) from the suspects.

METROBRIEFS

One lucky cabbie

TAXI driver Severino Oclarit, 38, was stabbed in the neck, shot in the head and thrown out of a running car, but despite a shallow neck wound and contusions in the body, he is one happy cabbie. Oclarit of 135 Area 5, Sitio Cabuyao, Sauyo Road, Quezon City, was the victim of a robbery in Makati City before dawn yesterday. Three men on board his cab tried to kill him during the incident. Luckily, the driver managed to dodge the attack of the suspects before he threw himself out of his cab along Kamagong Street. The suspects escaped. *Margaux Ortiz*

Banana charges

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights has filed charges before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against Chief Insp. Bernie Baltazar, reportedly of the UP Diliman Police, for allegedly cutting some 1,000 banana trees planted by Salvador Carino, 65, of Barangay Pechayan, Old Capital Sites, Diliman. In Carino's complaint, Baltazar went to his plantation on Sept. 13, 2002, and cut his only source of livelihood. Baltazar could not be immediately reached for comment. *Tina Santos*

Dead & handcuffed

THE HANDCUFFED body of a young woman was found floating in the Pasig River in Manila on Thursday. The police said the victim, believed between 18 to 25 years old, 4'11" to 5'1" tall, with brown-complexion, medium built and shoulder-length hair, remained unidentified. She was wearing a white "Harvard Cafe" T-shirt, black pants and was barefooted. She also had two round scars on her thighs. The woman's body was brought to the Popular Funeral Parlor. *Leila Salaverria*

APB fellowship

THE ALPHA Phi Beta Chancery will have its monthly fellowship meeting on August 8 at the Gabaldon Room of the Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan. The honorees of the gathering will be led by newly appointed Court of Appeals Justice Arsenio J. Magpale. The Chancery is composed of the alumni members of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity of the University of the Philippines headed by lawyer Rene Valdecantos. One of the Chancery's projects is the National Center for Justice which helps indigent litigants.

Officers come to Reyes wife's defense

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

"MON, you were fed the wrong information about Tessie Reyes. She doesn't interfere in her husband's work," said former Armed Forces chief of staff Dionisio Santiago.

Santiago, now director of the Bureau of Corrections, was referring to Teresita Reyes, wife of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who this column, quoting some military officers, said cornered the purchase of supplies for the troops when her husband was AFP chief of staff.

Some military officers I interviewed said the defense chief's children also got kickbacks from contractors who undertook AFP projects.

* * *

Santiago said he had not seen Ms Reyes even once at any of the offices inside Camp Aguinaldo, the AFP general headquarters.

Rear Adm. Reuben Lista, Coast Guard commandant, said the same thing about Ms Reyes.

Lista said, "*Takot si Tessie kay Angie* (Tessie fears Angie), so how could she interfere in her husband's affairs?"

Angie is the defense chief's nickname.

* * *

Lista said he was not defending Reyes to curry favor because the Coast Guard is no longer under the Department of National Defense but already a part of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

"*Nagkamali ka diyan, Mon, kawawa naman si Tessie* (You were mistaken, I pity Tessie)," said Lista.

The Coast Guard chief said Reyes is a victim of "militics" (a combination of the words military and politics); in other words, intrigues within the military.

* * *

One of the demands of mutinous soldiers holed up at Oakwood in Makati's financial district was for the resignation of Secretary Reyes.

They said Reyes and military intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus—who has since resigned—were responsible for the bombings in Davao City that killed and wounded a big number of people.

Many citizens find the allegation of the young officers unbelievable in so far as the Davao bombings and the sale of arms by Reyes to Moro rebels are concerned.

But the citizenry strongly clamors for an investigation into reports of corruption in the AFP.

* * *

Those young officers may be very intelligent—one of them graduating magna cum laude at the Philippine Military Academy—but they certainly are not wise.

Had they been wise they would not have staged that mutiny to air their grievances against their superiors.

They could have been more effective in collectively exposing the corruption within the military through the media.

* * *

A lot of reporters and columnists, including myself, would have fallen all over the place to get the story.

Imagine, members of two classes (1994 and 1995) of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) collectively assailing the corruption within the Armed Forces! That would have been a major story. They would have won the sympathy of the citizenry.

The airing of their grievances through the media would have been much, much more effective than seizing a building in the country's financial district.

* * *

If those young lieutenants and captains think that they have the sympathy of the citizenry with their irresponsible adventure, then they are still kids wearing a military uniform. They haven't grown up, they haven't graduated from the *baril-barilan* game children play.

The PMA, their alma mater, should revise its curriculum in such a way that it teaches its graduates to become mature citizens.

* * *

In Thursday's column, this writer said that military intelligence traced the money that financed the mutiny to Bingo Bonanza, a bingo franchise reportedly owned by San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, President Erap's son.

Yesterday, the Bingo Bonanza management strongly denied the intelligence reports in a letter sent to this writer.

"We would like to make it of record that there is no truth to those 'intelligence reports' pointing to Bingo Bonanza Corp. (BBC) as the alleged 'source of the money the mutineers spent,' and that BBC is 'owned by JV Ejercito,'" said Alfredo B. Benitez, its president.

* * *

Benitez said BBC is an operation of AB Leisure Exponent Inc., which is wholly-owned by Leisure and Resort World Corp., a publicly listed company. Ejercito is not part of those three corporations, he added.

BBC, Benitez said, has been operating since May, 1993 long before President Erap became President.

"It is a legitimate business regulated by the government and has been complying with all regulatory requirements, national and local," said Benitez.

* * *

As a public-listed company, BBC does not engage in any "activity that would cause large-scale economic distress which would adversely affect the thousands of shareholders who have invested in the company," said the BBC president.

Benitez said his company's business was "shaken by misguided adventurism."

"In the particular case of BBC, the adverse impact is made even more serious by this unfounded, untruthful and baseless but damaging so-called 'intelligence report,'" Benitez said.

Receipts lead to Jinggoy office

From page A18

agents were not carrying a search warrant when they conducted the operation.

Yesterday morning, Interior Secretary Jose Lina told the Senate of the supposed link between the receipts and the house on Artiaga Street.

Lina pointed to a statement by the Isafp that said P63,268 worth of appliances bought from the SM Megamall Appliance Center were delivered to the building.

Listed in the invoices were an air conditioning unit, a refrigerator, a television set, a gas range, electric fans, sofa beds, five kapok mattresses, monotop round tables and monoblock chairs.

Lina's statements solicited the ire of the San Juan mayor.

"Lina has a propensity of fabricating stories," Ejercito said. "I believe this is a frame-up... It's witch-hunting."

He said Jinggoy was "planning" to unseat only one government—his.

"Jinggoy and his leaders have been meeting in his office because he is planning for the next elections. He wants to be mayor again," Ejercito said.

"How could a very sensitive issue such as a mutiny be planned in a place where all sorts of people come and go?" the mayor asked.

Ejercito admitted that he also had used that office as his campaign headquarters. "(But) that was almost three years ago," he said.

The mayor dared Lina to prove the authenticity of the sales invoices.

The San Juan Police released yesterday the three Isafp agents after Ejercito failed to file any charges against them.

Supt. Jesus Jose Samson, San Juan Police head, said they had to release S/Sgt. Antonio Cruzada, Sgt. Rafaelito Tafalla and T/Sgt Abet Cordova because the San Juan police risked being charged with illegal detention.

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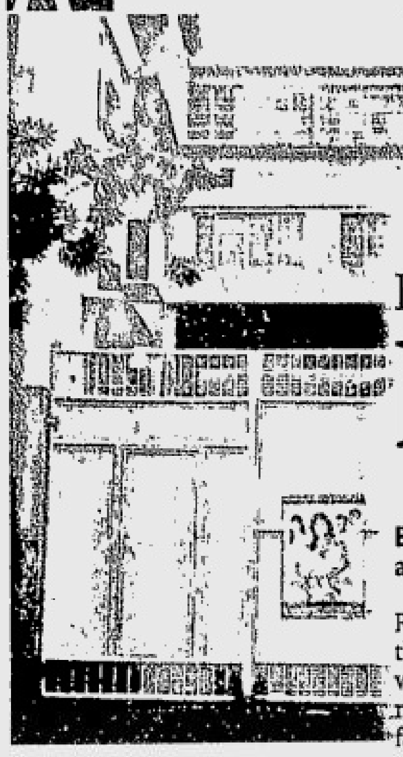


NOTHING appears to stir inside 240 Artiaga St., San Juan, reportedly used as an office by Jinggoy Estrada. JOAN BONDOC

ISAFP CHIEF'S CLAIM

Receipts lead to Jinggoy office

By TJ Burgonio and Luige del Puerto

RECEIPTS found in the rooms of the Oakwood Premier hotel which were allegedly occupied by rebel soldiers in last Sunday's failed mutiny have been traced to a house in San Juan which is being used as an office of a son of former President Estrada.

This was disclosed yesterday by Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, newly designated chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Cabuay revealed this information to explain the presence of three Isafp agents at 240 Lt. Artiaga St., Barangay Corazon de Jesus, San Juan, which town mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito confirmed as being used by his brother Jinggoy.

The Isafp chief explained that the authorities had found receipts or sales invoices from rooms at the hotel purportedly used by rebel soldiers, indicating the purchase of appliances from SM Megamall on July 8 by one Joel Gamboa.

When the three Isafp agents went to this address to verify the information, they found out that no one by the name of Joel Gamboa lived there and that one George Ramos was supposed to be living there, he said.

"It was during this time that the mayor of San Juan came and had them arrested," Cabuay related.

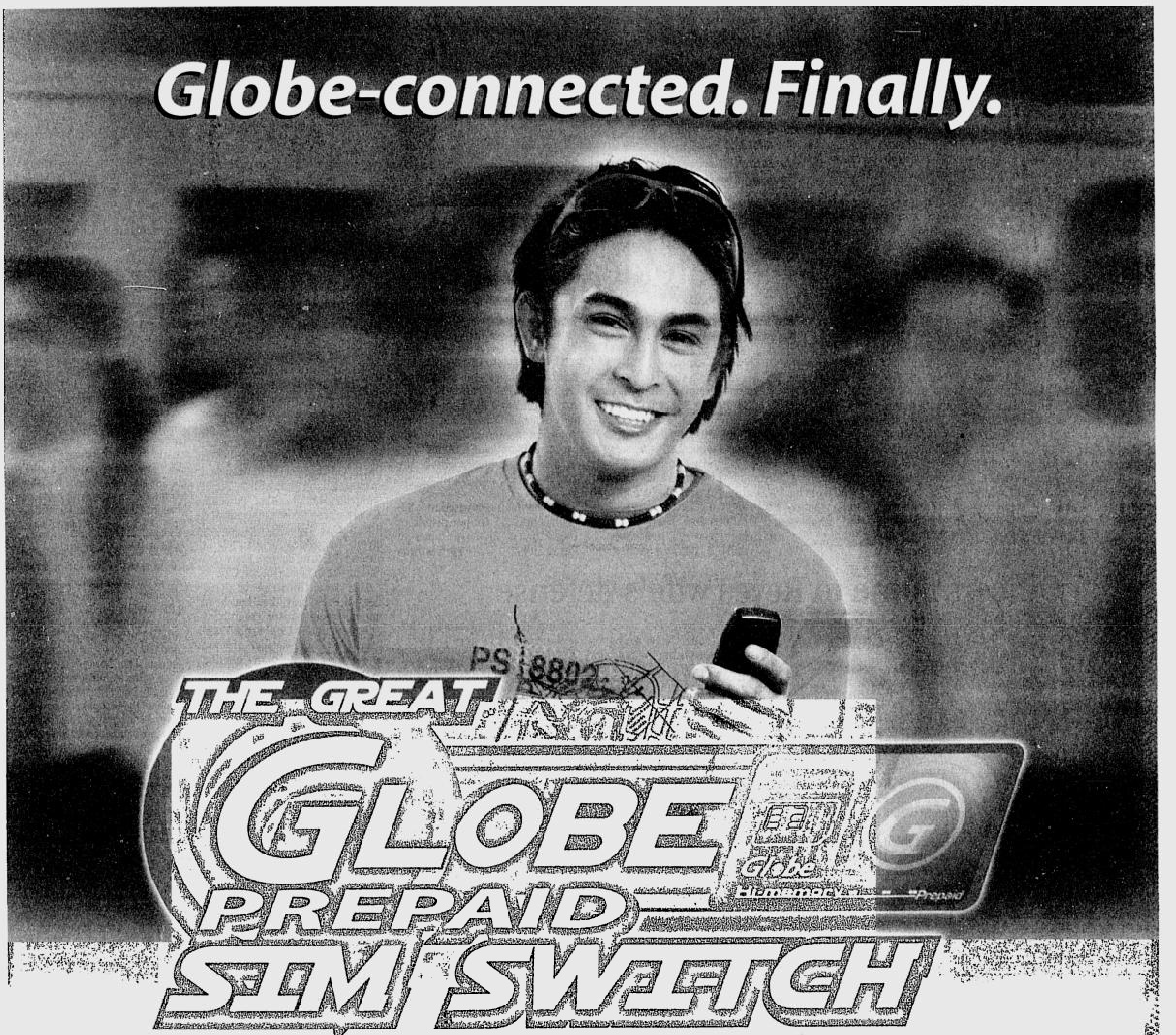
Ejercito and Jinggoy are both sons of ousted president Estrada, who is now facing charges of plunder.

In a statement, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, military information officer, said that a neighbor had told the agents that he noticed an "unusual influx of military-looking men" at the house prior to the July 27 siege in Makati City.

Another neighbor also noticed the loading of a truckload of "unknown items" from the building after the failed mutiny.

Cabuay admitted that the

RECEIPTS/A17



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SPORTS

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MAKING A STATEMENT: Rosales tees off at the 5th of Royal Lytham & St Anne's course in northern England. REUTERS

In-form Jenny 2 off British Open leader

BRANDISHING the game that seems tailor-fit for links golf, Jenny Rosales opened her bid in the Women's British Open yesterday with the same three-under-par 69 that sparked her strong performance in last year's event before she finished fourth place overall.

This time around, Jenny stood two strokes off the leaders in Lancashire, England as she highlighted her roaring start with a 20-foot putt for eagle on the 15th and a well-struck blast from a pot bunker on the 17th that set her up for a gimme par.

J-Ro led for three rounds at Turnberry in 2002 but blew her title bid with a 73 in the final round and settled for fourth.

With her putting troubles in check and on target with her approach shots, Rosales appears ready to make up for that sorry miss.

Karrie Webb, who fell into a terrible slump after winning the event last year, fired a five-under 67 to share the lead with Wendy Ward. World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam is right behind them at 68.

Despite her amazing winning record, Sorenstam is still figuring out the puzzle of links golf. When the event was elevated to the level of a major in 2002, Annika tied for 32nd and missed the cut last year at Turnberry.

Rosales, on the other hand, is finding the right breaks outside the US courses used for the LPGA Tour.

The wet and windy weather made the conditions at the par-72, 6,308-yard Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club difficult but Rosales just kept plugging despite the frequent stomach cramps that hit her during the round.

Early birdies on the fourth, from five feet, and on the seventh from 12 feet set the tone for Rosales' promising opening round. Her only bogey for the day came on the 10th where she drove into a fairway bunker.

It was on the same 10th hole where Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin took a quadruple-bogey 8 en route to 76 that endangered her chances of making it to the weekend action.

"Jenny was very happy with the way she played, she was a bit bothered with the stomach cramps but made a few good putts," said her swing coach Bong Lopez in a text message.

J-Ro could have even joined Annika in second place had she holed a short eight-foot birdie try on the last hole.

Lopez felt relieved that the lack of practice caused by an airline snafu which misplaced Jenny's golf set and baggages on their way to England from France didn't affect Rosales.

"Links golf is definitely growing on me," Sorenstam said. "It takes a little different type of mindset to play here, especially more patience. Maybe now that I am a little older, a little more mature, I have a little more patience than I did when I was younger."

For Webb, it was another sign that a relatively disappointing season is taking a turn for the better.

The former world No.1, who is aiming to win this title for a fourth time, finished fifth in the Evian Masters in France last week, and a round of five birdies and an eagle was the perfect start on a rather benign opening day.

"The weather was far better than I expected and really the course couldn't have been playing any easier," she said. "But anything under par is a good score on this course.

Webb has had six top 10s this year, but has not won anywhere since she took this title at Turnberry in Scotland in 2002.

Ward has won three times on the LPGA Tour and played in last year's winning US Solheim Cup side.

her own and others' expectations.

The scores:

67—Wendy Ward 33-34, Karrie Webb 34-33

68—Annika Sorenstam 34-34

69—Jennifer Rosales 33-36,Lorie Kane 33-36, Shani Waugh 35-34, Christina Kuld 36-33, Se Ri Pak 36-33, Karen Stupples 32-37, Georgina Simpson 34-35

70—Giulia Sergas 33-37, Carin Koch 34-36, Soo-Yun Kang 35-35, Alexandria Keighley 34-36, Patricia Meunier-Lebouc 37-33 Heather Bowie 33-37, Helen Alfredsson 33-37, Lynnette Brooky 34-36, Danielle Ammaccapane 35-35, Rachel Teske 35-35, Gloria Park 33-37, Moira Dunn 37-33

WHAT'S INSIDE

Tigers gift coach with victory /A20

Archers, Eagles gun for win No. 4 /A22

Palace gives nod to IAAF bid by Go /A25

Taiwanese national team to play RP five /A22

Paragua ties for lead in France /A26

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix Qualifying; 7 a.m.(r), 12:30 p.m. (r) and 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports —Schumacher and company rev up their engines as they continue to slug it out for pole position in Germany.

BASKETBALL: Vince Carter Charity Game; 10 a.m. (r-10:30 a.m.); Solar Sport —See Air Canada host his own version of a summer all-star extravaganza.

BASEBALL: Dodgers vs Braves; 7:30 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m.); ESPN—LA and Atlanta renew their NL rivalry on the diamond as the pennant race heats up.

GOLF: Buick Open; 2:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. (r); Star Sports; tomorrow at 3 a.m.; ESPN—Catch a replay of the second round and the live airing of the third round in this golf extravaganza.

TENNIS: ATP Legg Mason Classic; tomorrow 1 a.m.; ESPN—The best net artists gather in Washington D.C. for semifinal action.

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Monthly Prize – Every second Friday of the month at 10 am

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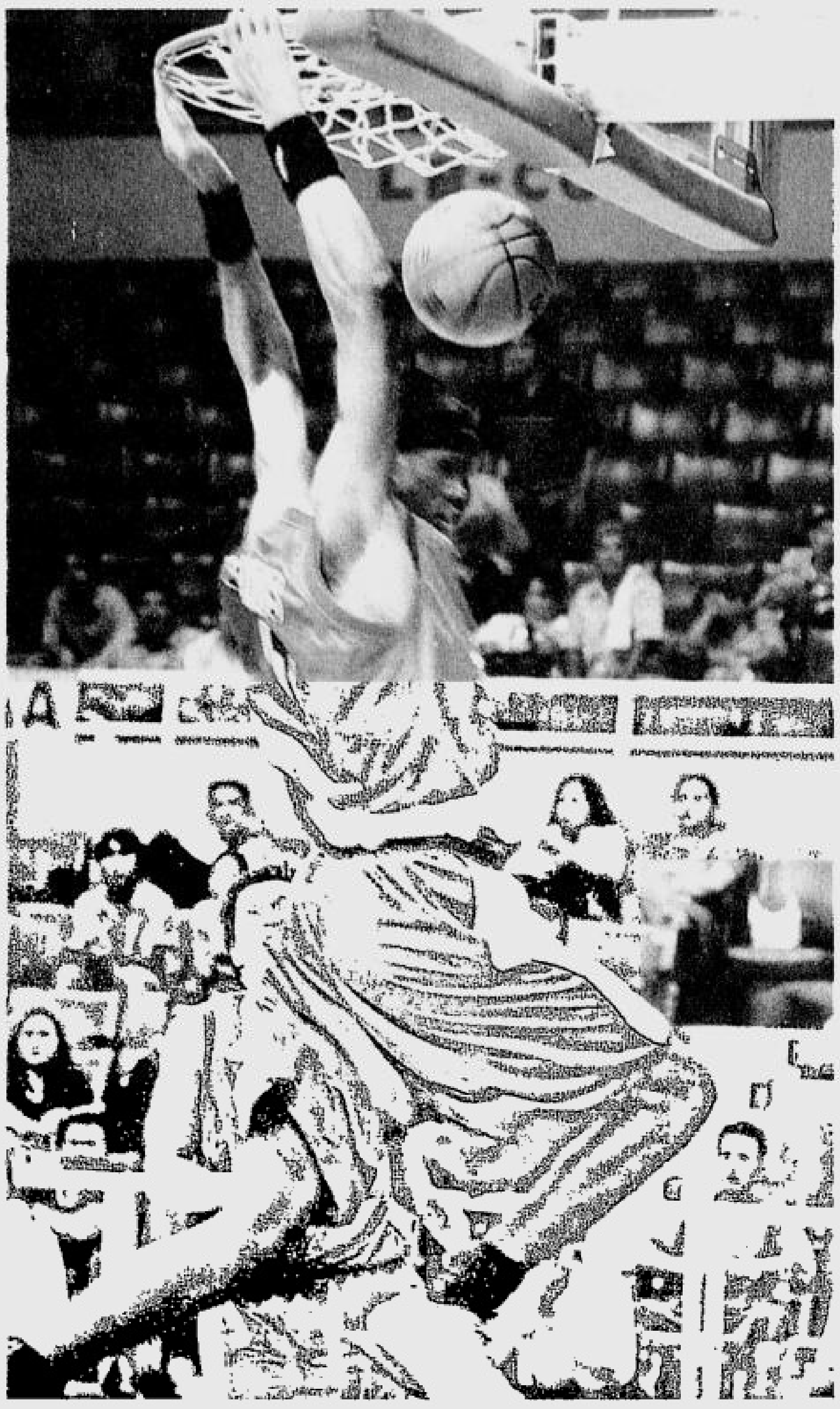

RAFI Reavis of Coca-Cola makes an undisputed slam in the first quarter of the Tigers' game against the Beermen. RUDY ESPERAS

Coke gifts coach by nipping SMB

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4 p.m.—Magnolia-Jilin vs RP Team
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs FedEx

By June Navarro

THE COCA-COLA Tigers gave their coach a fitting birthday gift by repulsing the San Miguel Beermen, 98-93, last night in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Rudy Hatfield delivered the most touching present as he came up with 23 points, 10 rebounds and a crucial swipe in the dying seconds that sealed the Tigers victory in the foreign-spiced tournament.

In the nightcap, Talk 'N Text gave interim coach Ariel Vanguardia his first PBA win with a 121-112 win over a lackluster Yonsei University of South Korea.

Asi Taulava turned in a career-high 49 points and 21 rebounds as the Phone Pals shared an even slate with the Tigers.

Yonsei University dropped to the cellar with its second straight setback.

"So far, this is the best birthday gift that I received," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, who turned 40.

Ato Morano and Rob Wainwright also barged into the party with gifts that made Reyes proud of his Tigers.

Morano buried a three-pointer that broke an 89-89 tie and Wainwright converted a pair of charities with a few ticks left for a 94-91 Coca-Cola lead.

The Beermen remained in the thick of the fight but Hatfield stole the ball from Nic Belasco, paving the way for a Jeffrey Cariaso fastbreak that doomed the Beermen.

San Miguel, which dumped the Cebuana-Lhuiller RP Team, 95-55, in the opener, fell to 1-1.

"The best way to erase the pain of our loss in the Finals is to continue playing well every game. We were down early and despite injuries to Johnny (Abarrientos) and Rudy (Hatfield) we fought it out until the end," said Reyes.

The Tigers lost the All Filipino crown to the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 4-2, some three weeks ago despite taking a 2-0 lead at the start of the best-of-seven title series.

Abarrientos missed a triple and hit the deck midway in the fourth quarter after stepping on the foot of Dondon Hontiveros. Johnny came out of the incident with a sprained right ankle and the 1996 MVP rode the bench the rest of the way.

A few possessions later, Hatfield also hurt his left foot after a battle for possession with Boybits Victoria.

SCORES:

First Game

COCA-COLA 98—Hatfield 23, Reavis 22, Cariaso 12, Wainwright 11, Abarrientos 8, Morano 6, Hugnatan 5, Avenido 5, Juinio 4, Chia 2, Antonio 0.

SAN MIGUEL 93—Belasco 25, Hontiveros 20, Ildefonso 19, Racela 10, Victoria 8, Mente 5, Gamboa 4, Paras 2, Gahol 0.

Quarters: 18-27, 43-45, 69-67, 98-93

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 121—Taulava 49, Alapag 15, Pablo 14, Carey 12, Belano 11, Manalo 10, Ravena 6, Fran 2, Telan 2, Villa 0.

YONSEI U 112—Jung GJ26, Hee 22, Jung HL 17, Ju 16, Seung TC 12, Kwang 10, Sang 6, Seung WJ 2, Kim 1.

Quarters: 23-21, 56-46, 87-75, 121-112.

Beckham-mania goes full blast in China

BEIJING—David Beckham's debut for Real Madrid is likely to be the most widely watched sporting event China has staged.

Real will play a select squad composed of players from four Chinese A League teams in front of a sell-out 50,000 crowd at the Workers' Stadium in Beijing Saturday.

With the match almost upon them, Beckham-mania appears to have gone to the fans' heads. It was evident at the Xu Kai beauty parlour on the capital's south side, where fans were opting for the swashbuckling twin ponytails the Englishman has popularized in the week since he began training with Real. *Reuters*

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I write 'The Right Stuff'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DEDICATE this piece most especially to those who do not subscribe to Newsweek, that international magazine of note.

For months now, Newsweek has been publishing stories on health and how to stay physically fit. In its July 28 issue, its cover story was about cholesterol, that soft, waxy substance that the body uses to build cell membranes and make steroid hormones, such as estrogen, testosterone and cortisone.

The magazine had a "Test Yourself" segment on how much do you know about cholesterol.

True Or False?

1) The body needs cholesterol.

2) The best way to reduce cholesterol is to limit (intake of) cholesterol - rich foods, such as eggs.

3) To lower your cholesterol, you should stop eating all meat.

4) Any total cholesterol level below 240 is fine.

5) All vegetable oils are good for the heart.

6) Lowering cholesterol can help people who have had a heart attack.

7) Exercise can raise good cholesterol.

8) Women don't need to worry about high levels of cholesterol and heart disease.

The Answers

Question 1: TRUE. The problem isn't cholesterol per se, but excess cholesterol - particularly the "bad" LDL cholesterol, which contributes to plaque buildup in the arteries.

Question 2: FALSE. Although so-called dietary cholesterol does raise blood cholesterol in most people, the chief culprit is saturated fat. The most effective way to control blood cholesterol is to reduce (intake of) foods high in saturated fat, such as full-fat cheese, cream, butter and meat.

Question 3: FALSE. Red meat is high in saturated fat, which can raise cholesterol. But according to the National Institute of Health, lean cuts of meat can be part of a healthy diet. Trim the fat and reduce your daily intake to 6 ounces—the size of a deck of cards. (A heart patient should limit intake to 5 ounces.)

Question 4: FALSE. For most people, total cholesterol should be under 200, not 240. But cholesterol comes in two basic forms. In general, "bad" cholesterol (LDL) should be below 130—unless you have heart disease or diabetes, in which case you should aim even lower. However, a low level of "good" LDL cholesterol —under 40—raises the risk of heart disease.

Question 5: FALSE. "Trans-fats"—the partially hydrogenated vegetable oils found in hard margarine and many baked products—raise blood cholesterol. The tropical oils—palm, palm kernel and coconut —are high in saturated fat and can also raise cholesterol. Focus instead on the other vegetable oils, including olive and canola, which contain mostly monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats.

Question 6: TRUE. People who have had one heart attack are at higher risk for a second, but lowering cholesterol can greatly reduce that risk. If you have heart disease, your LDL level should be less than 100.

Question 7: TRUE. "Exercise should be part of any program for heart health," says Dr. Ronald Krauss, founder of the American Heart Association's Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism. "At least half an hour a day is recommended." Other measures that can help raise HDL include losing weight and stopping smoking.

Question 8: FALSE. Before menopause, women tend to have lower cholesterol levels than men. But afterward, their levels go up, along with their risk for heart disease. For both men and women, heart disease is the leading cause of death.

The above was adopted by Newsweek from the National Cholesterol Education Program.

One thing stands out from the above and that is, that we need to exercise to complement a healthy diet. Me? I sit more than I walk. After walking briskly for at least 30 minutes a day (when I'm not playing golf, of course), I sit for about an hour or so after taking a hot bath. How can you expect me to do this piece if I remained standing after emerging from the showers?

Here's to Newsweek.

***

FASTBREAK. For more stories about UAAP basketball and other related news, visit uaapgames.com.

Pacquiao-Barrera megabuck fight up

By Marc Anthony Reyes and Rey Danseco

MANNY Pacquiao wants taller, bigger opponents in the tougher, heavier featherweight division.

The International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champ appeared bored after his fourth successful defense of the 122-lb crown that he expressed his desire to move up to the featherweight (126-lb) class during yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan in Quezon City.

The 24-year-old Pacquiao said his manager, Rod Nazario, is already negotiating with the IBF and his American promoters for a future featherweight campaign that would give him a chance to become the first Filipino to win in three different divisions.

But while cornerman Lito Mondejar agreed with Pacquiao's decision to move up, he said it would be wise for Pacquiao to defend his crown first against Jose Luis Valbuena, the No. 1 challenger.

Mondejar said Pacquiao still needs enough preparation and conditioning before going up against top featherweights like Paulie Ayala and Marco Antonio Barrera.

"They said Barrera is the toughest featherweight around. I was hoping to test my skills against him and prove how long I can last," said Pacquiao in Filipino.

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AP

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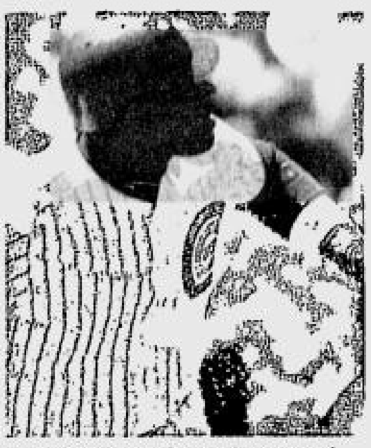

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1974 SERIES OF 2003

Pacquiao-Barrera megabuck fight up

By Marc Anthony Reyes and Rey Danseco

MANNY Pacquiao wants taller, bigger opponents in the tougher, heavier featherweight division.

The International Boxing Federation super bantamweight champ appeared bored after his fourth successful defense of the 122-lb crown that he expressed his desire to move up to the featherweight (126-lb) class during yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan in Quezon City.

The 24-year-old Pacquiao said his manager, Rod Nazario, is already negotiating with the IBF and his American promoters for a future featherweight campaign that would give him a chance to become the first Filipino to win in three different divisions.

But while cornerman Lito Mondejar agreed with Pacquiao's decision to move up, he said it would be wise for Pacquiao to defend his crown first against Jose Luis Valbuena, the No. 1 challenger.

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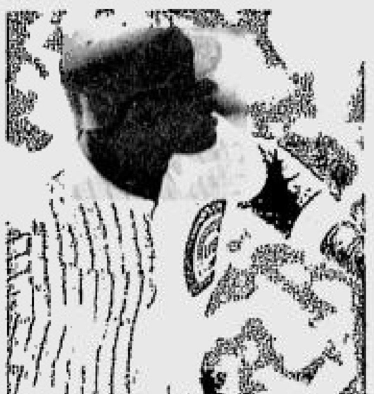
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Bengals forge 3-way deadlock with Eaglets, Baby Falcons

By Dennis U. Eroa

JOSEPH Roque of PCU controls the rebound in a recent varsity game against JRU. RUDY ESPERAS

MANUEL Abelardo and David Poblete starred as La Salle-Zobel blasted National University, 81-38, to forge a three-way logjam for first place in the UAAP men's junior basketball championship last Thursday at the Big Dome.

Abelardo and Poblete combined for 32 points and 21 rebounds as they presided over a rout that had the Bengals virtually settling the issue after only the first quarter, 31-6.

La Salle also got inspired showing from spirited pointguard Lope Juban, who scored 10 points on top of seven assists and five steals. Martin Flores and Martin Reyes also shone in the first half which saw La Salle taking a 52-20 bulge.

It was La Salle's third win against a loss as it tied Ateneo and Adamson.

Earlier, Ken Barracoso and Jose Reyes took charge in the fourth period as the Eaglets surprised the Baby Falcons, 80-74.

The 6-foot-5 Abelardo and the power-playing Poblete proved unstoppable in the paint against the smaller Bullpups, who were bannered by Reagan Balabbo with 10 points.

Unable to crack La Salle's interior defense, the Bullpups tried to bring the fight to the outside but failed miserably as they went 1 of 11 from the three-point area.

"We're delighted to get a share of first place, but the team still needs to be consistent," said coach Dax Castellano.

Castellano steered the La Salle Lady Archers to their fourth straight crown last year before taking over the Bengals' coaching reins this year.

SCORES:

LA SALLE-Zobel 81—Abelardo 17, Poblete 15, Juban 10, Flores 9, Reyes 7, Ambrocio 6, Roxas 4, Posadas 4, De Asis 4, Dino 3, Ornedo 2, Salvador 0.

NU 38—Balabbo 10, Valencia 8, Conopio 7, De Leon 5, Garduno 3, Co 3, Piamonte 2, Gawson 0, Bernanbe 0.

Quarters: 31-6, 52-20, 67-29, 81-38.

Archers, Eagles gun for win No.4

La Salle tries to get back on track

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	4	1
La Salle	3	1
UE	2	1
Ateneo	3	2
UST	2	2
NU	1	3
Adamson	1	3
UP	0	3

GAMES TODAY (*Loyola Gym*)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Srs)

LA SALLE tries to recover lost ground even as defending champion Ateneo seeks to continue its winning ways when they battle separate foes today in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

The Archers, who lost their composure in the homestretch and bowed to the Far Eastern Tamaraws, 74-42, last Thursday will try to gain a share of the lead with their conquerors from Morayta when they meet the National U Bulldogs in the 2 p.m. curtain-raiser.

Riding high on a three-game winning streak, the Eagles meet the winless UP Maroons at 4 p.m.

La Salle dictated the tempo most of the way against the Tamaraws but its lack of experience became obvious in the face of FEU's blazing comeback in the homestretch.

Marc Cardona remains La Salle's scoring machine but he must learn to pace himself and include his teammates in the flow of things.

With Carlo Sharma still a doubtful starter due to back spasms, Manny Ramos, Michael Gavino and Mark Benitez should stamp their authority in the shaded lane against the smaller Bulldogs, whose main man is 6-foot-4 Rey Mendoza.

Tyrone Tang, Joseph Casio and Joseph Yeo will also play major roles for the Archers in the backcourt where NU boasts of the veteran Froilan Baguion.

The Maroons have lost their last three games, no thanks to the sudden dip in performance of 6-foot-7 slotman JayR Reyes.

With talks of a rift with rookie coach Lito Vergara floating, Reyes, a product of Letran, has been seeing action sparingly. The lanky Reyes also seemed afraid to mix it up in the inside, electing to take perimeter shots with disastrous results.

For UP to join the winning column, the Maroons must neutralize the power plays of two-time MVP Rich Alvarez, Larry Fonacier, Wesley Gonzales and LA Tenorio.

Ateneo's shock troopers JC Intal, Doug Kramer, Chris Tiu and Ford Arao are also playing with intensity, giving coach Joel Banal the luxury of getting a solid rotation.

But coach Joel Banal is not taking UP lightly. "UP will play pressure-free and that makes the Maroons dangerous," noted Banal, who is in his second and final year as Ateneo mentor. Dennis U. Eroa

FAR Eastern's Cesar Catli and La Sall

Taiwan national five to test

LINA

THE CHINESE-TAIPEI national team will be arriving on Aug. 6 for a series of exhibition games against the Philippine training pool and the PBA squads left out of the ongoing Samsung-Asian Invitational.

One of the region's traditional basketball powers, the Taiwanese have been invited by Air21 chair Bert Lina through the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Dubbed as the RP-Chinese Taipei Goodwill Games, the series begins on Aug. 10 with Barangay Ginebra taking first crack on the Taiwanese, a mixture of veterans and tall teenagers, some of whom saw action in the 2002 Busan Asian Games.

The game will be held in Olongapo City.

The Nationals, who are also taking part as a guest entry in the Invitationals, test their Taiwanese counterparts' mettle on Aug. 11 in a match scheduled in Las Piñas.

FedEx is next in line for Chinese Taipei, which is also gearing up for this year's Asian Basketball Confederation men's championship, on Aug. 12 in Malolos, Bulacan.

The Taiwanese then motor to Lucena City where they are slated to play against the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs on Aug. 13.

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Tagaytay
September 27 - 28
Dagupan
October 11 - 12
San Pablo (Laguna)
October 25-26
Baguio
November 8 - 9
Intramuros
November 22 - 23

Cebu
Ayala Center Cebu
August 1-3
AYALA CENTER CEBU

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
August 1-3, 2003

August 1
Formal Opening of Kasalan sa Cebu
Serenade by a Quartet
Minor Raffle Draws every 11:00am and 3:00pm
Highlight: Fashion Show by Philip Rodriguez
Venue: Activity Center

August 2
Opening of Exhibit
Minor Raffle Draws every 11:00am and 3:00pm
Highlight: Fashion Show by Clothes for Life designers
Venue: Activity Center

August 3
Opening of Exhibit
Bridal Acoustics
Minor Raffle Draws every 11:00am and 3:00pm
Highlight: Major Raffle Draw at 3:00pm
Venue: Activity Center

Mock Wedding
Venue: Paseo Verde

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August 16-17
PRYCE PLAZA

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES
August 16-17, 2003

August 16 (Saturday)

Formal Opening of Kasalan sa Kagay-an
Music Entertainment
Weddings in Films
Minor Raffle Draws every 11:00am and 3:00pm
Seminar on Photography
Stag and Shower Party

August 17 (Sunday)

Opening of Exhibit
Marriage Encounter
Weddings in Films2
Minor Raffle Draws every 11:00am and 3:00pm
Seminar on Floral Arrangements
Fashion Show
Awarding of Best Booth Setup
Acknowledgement of Partners, Sponsors
Announcement of Major Raffle Winners

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Kasalang Filipino Supplement

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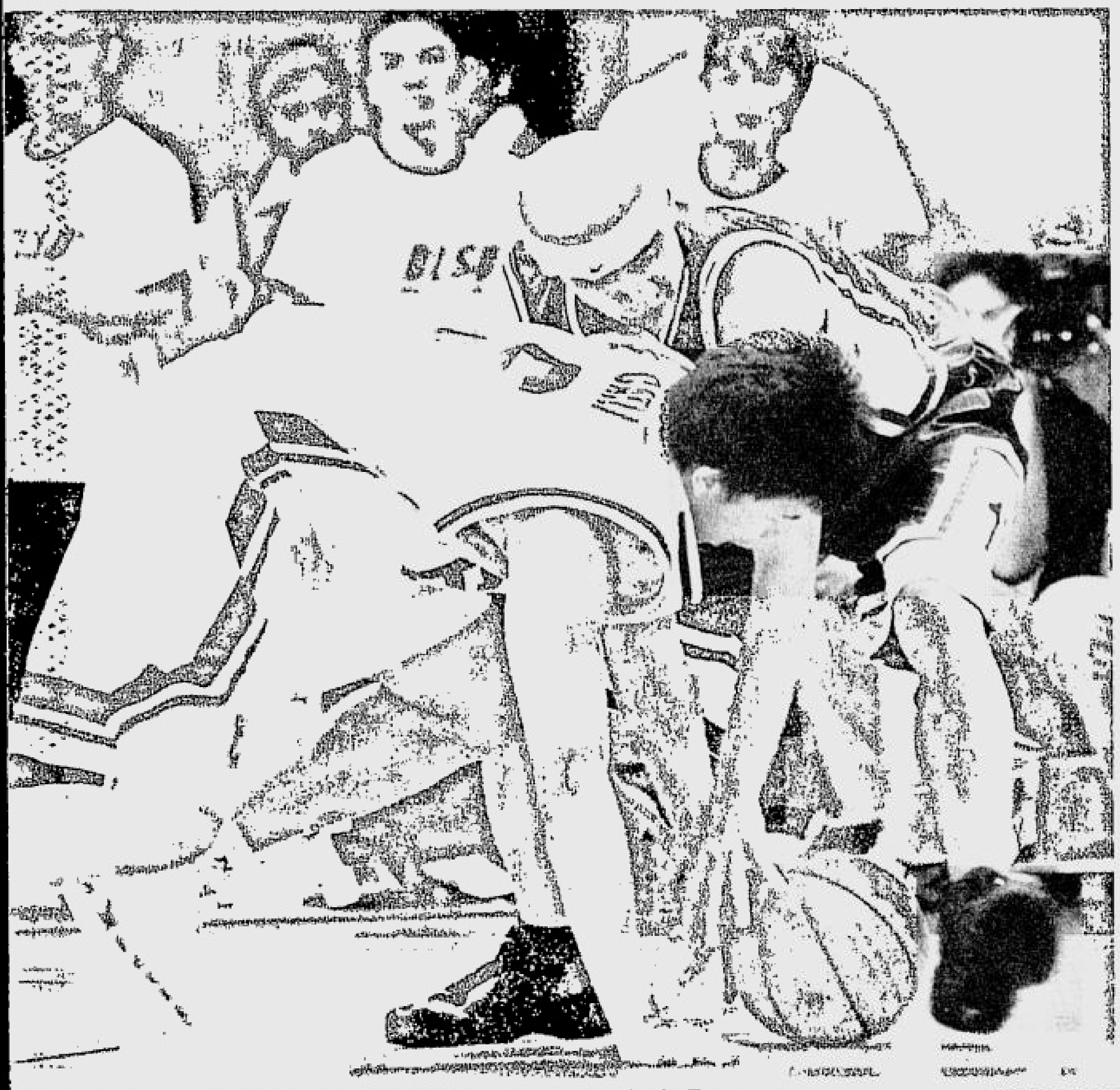


's Mark Cardona scramble for the loose ball in Thursday's game won by the Tamaraws. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

nettle of RP training pool

Marikina City plays host to the Taiwanese on Aug. 14 when the visitors battle the Shell Turbochargers.

Lina expressed his gratitude to the BAP, through its president Tiny Literal and secretary general Graham Lim, for inviting the Taiwanese .

He also thanked the PBA, through commissioner Noli Eala, for allowing its teams to take part in the goodwill series.

The 24-man Chinese Taipei delegation are also scheduled to pay a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo before embarking on the city-hopping tour.

A young, tall Taiwanese squad also visited the country last year and played tune-up games with the all-PBA national team that saw action in the Busan Asiad.

Like in the last quadrennial Games, the Taiwanese are expected to parade at least five players standing at least 6 feet 6, the organizers of the exhibition series said.

Although quick, an inexperienced Taiwanese national team that saw action in South Korea was routed by a Philippine team that included Asi Taulava, Danny Seigle, Rudy Hatfield, Jeffrey Cariaso and Danny Ildefonso.

Media seeks access to Kobe court records

EAGLE, Colorado—News organizations asked a judge for access to sealed court records in the Kobe Bryant sexual assault case, saying the NBA star waived his right to privacy when he declared his innocence at a news conference.

Chris Beall, a lawyer representing several media organizations, including NBC, The Denver Post and the Los Angeles Times, said Thursday that the presumption that court records are open to the public is "a hallmark of our judicial system."

"Every day that goes by when the public doesn't have an opportunity to understand the evidence is a day lost under the Constitution," he said in a courtroom filled with reporters.

"The defendant has asserted that the release of the arrest warrant and search warrant affidavit will harm his right to privacy," he said. "However, the defendant has made admissions on international TV of a sexual relationship he says was consensual with the victim. That statement is a waiver of his right to privacy with respect to those facts."

BRYANT AFP

Meanwhile, Judge Fred Gannett rejected Bryant's request to skip next week's initial court appearance in his sexual assault case.

Hal Haddon said the request was filed Thursday morning and rejected a few hours later by Gannett.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers have argued that the records should be withheld because publicity could undermine Bryant's right to a fair trial.

Bryant, a 24-year-old husband and father of one, has said he had sex with his accuser, a 19-year-old hotel worker, but denied he sexually assaulted her. He is free on a $25,000 bail.

Much of the information about the allegation against the Los Angeles Lakers star has been sealed, such as the arrest affidavit and court records that could provide clues to the evidence. *AP*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 038

Pacquiao fever

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

☐ True / ☐ False: Born in 1978 (1976, in some accounts), Manny Pacquiao is a natural lefty.

2 > 5 Pts.

What is Manny's real first name?
☐ Manuel
☐ Emmanuel

3 > 7 Pts.

Manny first gained national attention on what weekly TV show?
☐ 'Blow by Blow'
☐ 'Fistorama'
☐ 'Go for Gold'

4 > 10 Pts.

What's the name of the music lounge-bar in General Santos City that bore the brunt of Pacman's drunken rage last June?
☐ Maligaya
☐ Mamagaya
☐ Managaya

5 > 15 Pts.

In what round did Manny stop Lehlohonolo Ledwaba of South Africa to claim the IBF superbantamweight crown in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 23, 2001?
☐ 2nd
☐ 4th
☐ 6th
☐ 8th

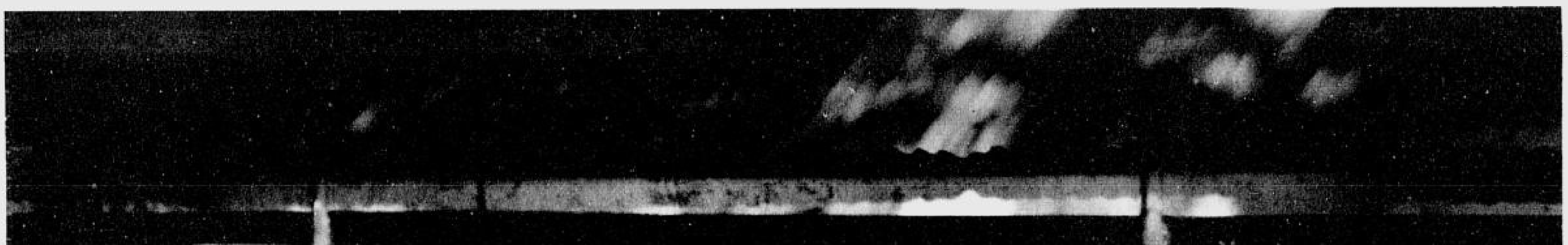
6 > 25 Pts.

Who knocked out Manny in three rounds on Feb. 9, 1996 in Mandaluyong, handing the latter his first loss after racking up 11 straight wins as pro?
☐ Arnel Barotillo
☐ Flash Simbajon
☐ Rustico Torrecampo
☐ Titing Ignacio

7 > 30 Pts.

On-the-jab training: At age 16, about a year before he put on a pair of boxing gloves, a fresh-from-the-province Manny first worked in Manila as a what?

ANSWERS/ A26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Philippoussis sets up quarterfinal clash with Kuerten

LOS ANGELES—Wimbledon runner-up Mark Philippoussis beat Michael Chang 6-2, 6-4 at the $380,000 Los Angeles ATP event on Thursday to set up a clash with Brazilian hero Gustavo Kuerten. Fifth seed Philippoussis needed just 30 minutes to win the first set then jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the second before the 16-year tour veteran Chang fought back to tie it at 3-3.

"I was a little frustrated at 3-3 but I wasn't too worried because I knew I was still up by a set," said Philippoussis.

"I felt confident on his service games. I knew I could always find a way to return his serve." Philippoussis advances to the quarterfinals to face three-time Roland Garros champion Kuerten who beat American Eric Taino on Thursday 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

All four seeded players in action on Thursday won their matches. Second seed Sebastien Grosjean, fourth seed Kuerten and seventh seed Wayne Ferreira all advanced.

Philippoussis now holds a 5-4 career edge over Chang, having won the last five-straight matches after Chang dominated him at the beginning.

"He's 31 years old, so he has run a lot of miles on the court," said Philippoussis of Chang, who is retiring from the tour after the US Open which begins next month.

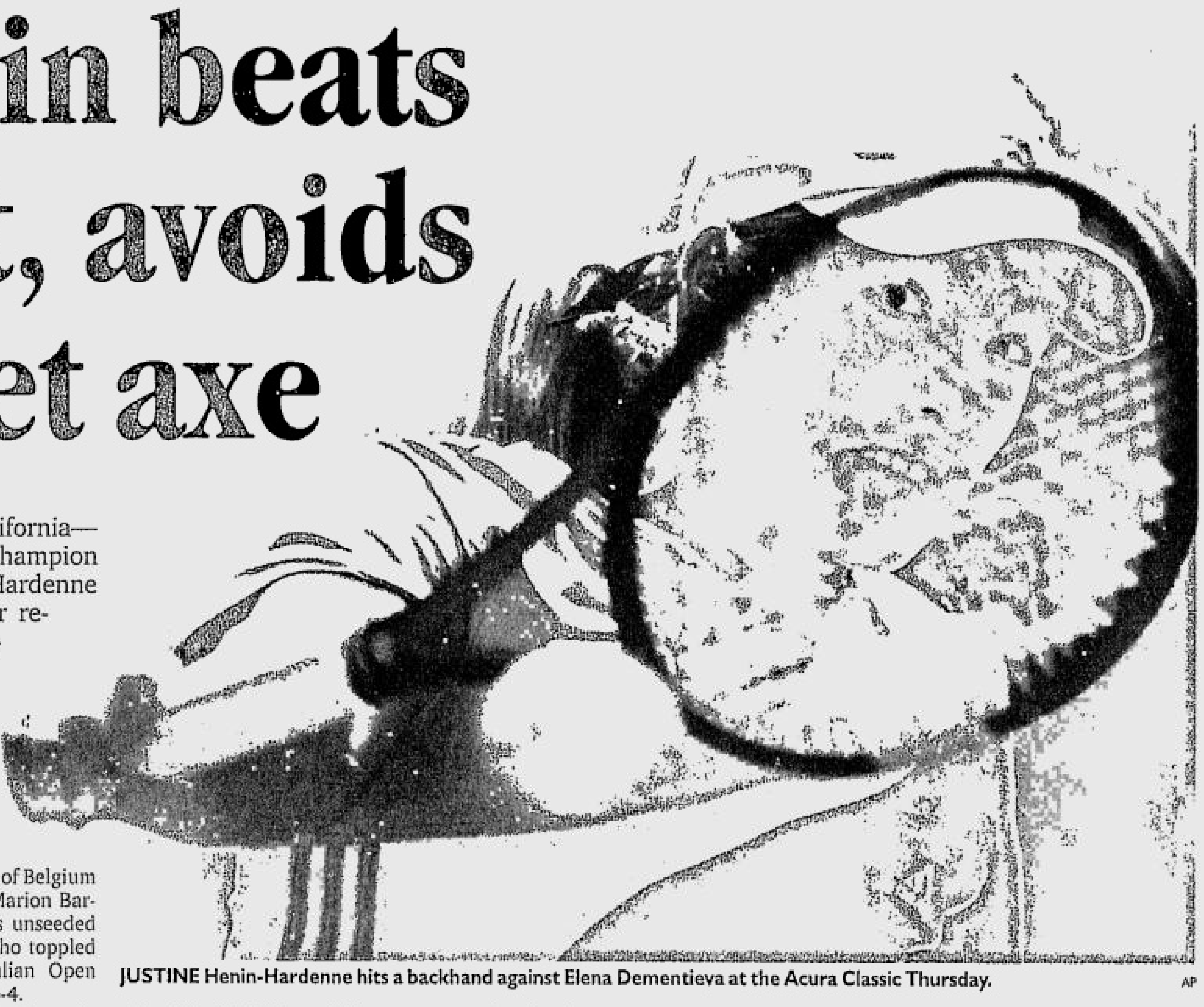
Philippoussis is coming off his best showing on the grass at Wimbledon where he upset No. 2 seed Andre Agassi before dropping the final to Swiss star Roger Federer.

But he has no plans to rest on his laurels.

"I am not thinking about playing like I was at Wimbledon," he said. "My focus now is on the hardcourts." Kuerten, who is known to his fans as "Gugga" and Philippoussis have played just twice before in 2000. Philippoussis won an indoor match in Paris 7-6, 7-6 and Kuerten won on clay in Rome 6-2, 6-2.

"I have been watching Gugga play here," said Philippoussis. "It is going to be an interesting match. I am just going to go out there and play my game." Kuerten blasted 13 aces and won easily over doubles partner Taino. *AFP*

Henin beats heat, avoids upset axe



JUSTINE Henin-Hardenne hits a backhand against Elena Dementieva at the Acura Classic Thursday. AP

CARLSBAD, California—French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne had to call on all her reserves under a scorching sun on Thursday to beat 13th seed Elena Dementieva, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, to reach the quarterfinals of the $1-million Acura Classic.

Second seed Kim Clijsters of Belgium thrashed French teenager Marion Bartoli 6-1, 6-1 and now faces unseeded American Lisa Raymond, who toppled former French and Australian Open champion Mary Pierce 7-6, 6-4.

Third seed Henin-Hardenne lost the first set and had to rally from a 4-2 deficit in the second to halt Dementieva's charge.

The Russian needed seven set points to win the first set, finally clinching it when Henin-Hardenne attempted an ill-timed drop shot.

"I was in trouble," Henin-Hardenne told reporters. "She was hitting very hard and putting me under a lot of pressure." But Dementieva was a spent force after going 4-2 up in the second set and Henin-Hardenne took advantage by reeling off the next eight games.

"It was a very difficult moment (at 4-2 up)," Dementieva said. "I gave everything I had, I felt I couldn't move any more after that."

After Henin-Hardenne took the second set when she forced the Russian into a forehand error, the players were given a 10-minute heat break. Dementieva then wilted in the third.

"I was running all over the court and giving her too much time to organize her game," said Henin-Hardenne.

"It was tough conditions and I was playing too far behind the baseline. I knew I had to change the way I played, I needed to go more inside the court so she was doing the running." Fourth seed Lindsay Davenport showed no ill effects from her foot injury as she breezed past Russian Lina Krasnoroutskaya 6-0, 7-6 to clinch a meeting with fellow American Chanda Rubin in the last eight.

"I was playing very well, very aggressive and when I gave her a few chances she made errors," said Davenport, who was forced out of last week's Bank of the West Classic in nearby Stanford through injury.

Sixth seed Rubin survived a stern test from ninth seed Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia to win 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 while Russian Nadia Petrova overwhelmed seventh seed Daniela Hantuchova 6-1, 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal against Henin-Hardenne.

French Open semifinalist Petrova was lethal, cracking 25 winners to only 11 from the slim Slovakian to follow up in style her victory over 12th seed Amanda Coetzer in the second round. "I told myself before I got on court that because it was so hot and humid that I needed to play every point with all my strength and energy," said the unseeded Petrova, who banged seven aces. "I was very focused and kept the pressure on her." Russian Elena Likhovtseva upset 10th seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-4, 6-3 while Russian teenager Svetlana Kuznetsova put out fellow countrywoman and 16th seed Elena Bovina 7-6, 6-2. *Reuters*

Roddick silences Rusedski guns anew

WASHINGTON—Andy Roddick continued his recent mastery of hard-serving Greg Rusedski with a 6-3, 7-6 (4) victory in the third round of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic Thursday.

Top-seeded Andre Agassi had less trouble getting closer to his sixth Legg Mason title, beating Sargis Sargsian 6-3, 6-2 to join Roddick in the quarterfinals.

It was the third meeting this season between Roddick and Rusedski and the first since Roddick won a heated match in the second round at Wimbledon in straight sets.

Third seed Paradorn Srichaphan, a runner-up to American James Blake here last year, eliminated 80th-ranked American Brian Vahaly 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 and will next meet 38th-ranked Tim Henman, who beat Russian eighth seed Nikolay Davydenko 6-3, 6-4.

Roddick, who won two tiebreakers in their five-set match at Wimbledon, took a 3-0 lead by breaking serve in the second game of the first set.

The match from earlier this summer was clearly not forgotten by the spectators either.

Late in the first, the rangy Rusedski failed to win a point at the net prompting a fan to yell "Well Done, Well Done" mocking Rusedski's third-set meltdown during the Wimbledon match in which he argued with the chair umpire after someone in the crowd called a ball out in midpoint.

"It is a rematch, I have no grudge. It was me playing Greg another time," Roddick said. "I mean he did blow up, it was an incident, but I'd like to think that two sets up that I'm going to win that match anyway."

The second set returned the match to the form they have held all summer. Neither player was threatened on their serve and Roddick won all the big points.

In the tiebreaker, Roddick came up with a backhand passing shot to take a 5-3 lead and was able to serve out the advantage. *AP*

Hashim sends Asuncion's conqueror packing

ASUNCION AP

BIRMINGHAM, England—Roslin Hashim, the winner of the first world championship match between brothers on Wednesday, helped Malaysia gain two men's singles quarterfinalists for the first time in a world championship on Thursday.

The unseeded former world number one achieved this by following his victories over his brother Hafiz Hashim, the All-England Open champion, and the 12th seeded Boonsak Polsana, with another by 15-10, 13-15, 17-14 over the eighth-seeded Korean, Lee Hyun-Il.

However, it required Roslin to survive the longest match of the tournament so far—a one-hour 42-minute encounter which finished with him rolling over on his back in relief.

"This is for Hafiz—it is for both of us," the elder brother said.

"I know he could have won this tournament if he had not met me in the second round. I don't know quite how I feel—I just know that at the end of the match I was screaming."

To survive, Roslin had to overcome the disappointment of losing a 13-6 lead in the second game and to halt another Korean revival from 8-12 to 14-13 in the third.

The other Malaysian star was Wong Choon Hann, the ninth-seeded former Commonwealth champion, who was far too good for the fourth-seeded Dane, Anders Boesen, who he overwhelmed, 15-6, 15-6.

But this was not such a surprise as it seemed, for Wong's lower ranking was due to his having competed in two tournaments all year, while late in 2002 he had won the China Open beating world number one Chen Hong.

Wong would punch the clears deep to the baseline with an excellent rhythm and then suddenly produce hard-to-read left-handed smashes or disguised drops. The effect was devastating.

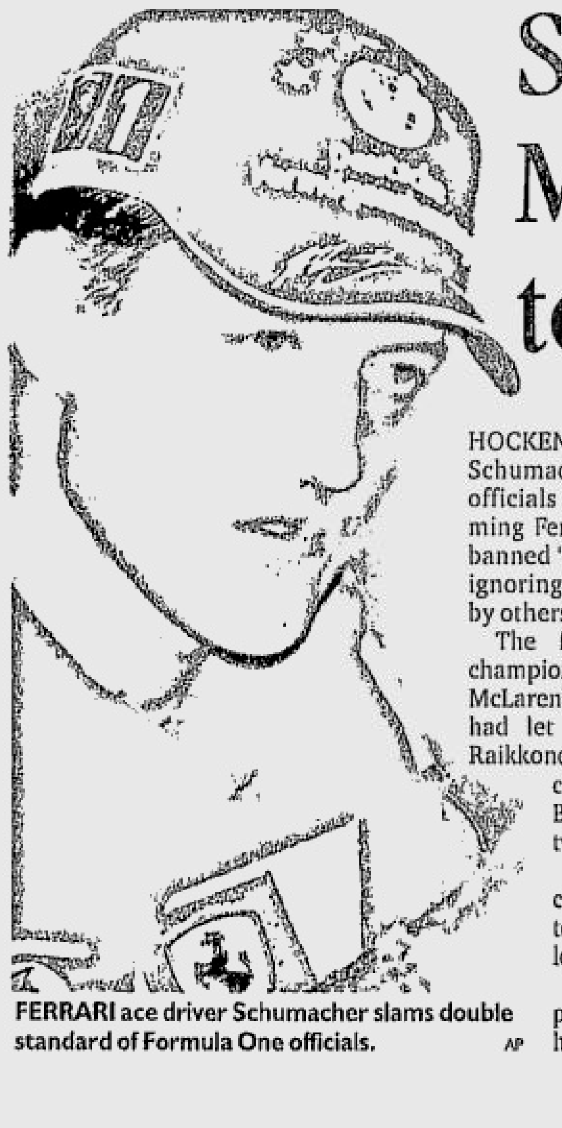
Boesen won the first three points and three rallies in a row near the end, but otherwise was hardly in it. *AFP*

Tickets for Real Madrid match sell like hot cakes

HONG KONG—Tickets for Real Madrid's exhibition match against Hong Kong were sold out within hours of going on offer as Beckham-mania gripped the city, leaving hundreds of fans bitterly disappointed, an official said Friday.

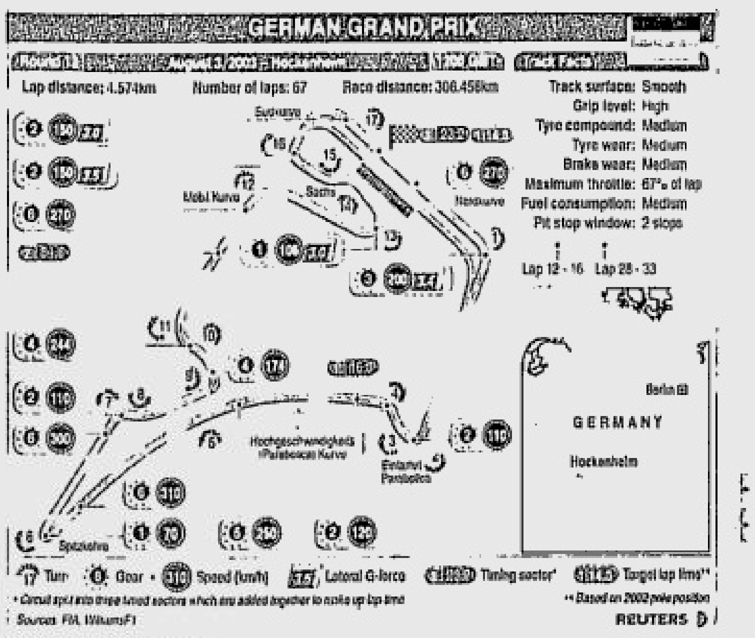
All 16,000 tickets on sale to the soccer-mad public were sold out within six hours of going on sale late Thursday.

A man named Lu, who was the last lucky fan to snap up a ticket waved his maximum allotted four tickets in delight as he shouted "I'm so happy." He told reporters he had queued for about 12 hours. "Of course I'm happy because I was lucky and managed to get a ticket." Despite early announcements from the police warning people that some stood no chance of getting the coveted tickets, hundreds continued queuing up to the last minute, only to be left disappointed when sales ended. *AFP*



FERRARI ace driver Schumacher slams double standard of Formula One officials. AP

Schumacher accuses McLaren of resorting to 'team orders'



SCHUMACHER in action during qualifying for the German Grand Prix set on a race track shown above. AP, REUTERS

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—Michael Schumacher has accused Formula One officials of double standards for slamming Ferrari for using now-banned 'team orders' while ignoring similar behavior by others.

The five times world champion suggested McLaren's David Coulthard had let team mate Kimi Raikkonen, Schumacher's closest title rival, past him at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone two weeks ago.

The Finn's third place finish cut Schumacher's overall lead to seven points with five races left.

"If the same would have happened with Ferrari there would have been a big casino, a big story about it, yet it has happened with McLaren but nobody has talked about it," he told BBC radio at the German Grand Prix on Thursday.

"I am totally surprised there has been no speculation how easily Kimi was able to overtake David as the situation for me was very clear and very normal." Schumacher, fined with Ferrari last season after the team created worldwide outrage by ordering Rubens Barrichello to let his German team mate win the Austrian Grand Prix, said Coulthard allowed Raikkonen past very easily.

"I am not concerned about team orders. It is totally right in this circumstance what they are doing," he said.

"But what I am complaining about is this completely different attitude if we do it than if somebody else does." Obvious team orders are now banned but the situation was far from clear-cut at Silverstone this month where the race was thrown into confusion by a protestor running on to the track.

Coulthard said on Wednesday that instructions issued by the team were a private matter while McLaren boss Ron Dennis has denied giving any such orders. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Under-14 Football Fiesta

TOTAL support for "kid futbolistas" under 14 years of age is Red Ribbons contribution to local soccer. This Sunday, its 'Red Ribbon Football Fiesta'—the kick-off to a series of football festivals in Metro Manila—happens at the Ateneo grounds in Loyola. La Salle Greenhills, Southridge School, Ateneo, La Salle Zobel, Don Bosco and Xavier School are expected to be in competition mode for this football-only event, sanctioned and ably organized by Jojo Rodriguez of the Philippine Football Federation. Red Ribbon's concept of football, fun and food for the entire family awaits all from nine-to-five in the pitches of Katipunan.

Kaya FC guns for Lupoy Cup

KAYA FC takes on the Navy Football Club in the championship match of the Lupoy-GNC Football Cup at the Nomads Sports Club in Merville, Parañaque tomorrow. The Freddie Gonzalez-led Kaya, darling squad of the mestizo crowd south of Manila, will bank on Alvin Ocampo, Christian Lozano, Rudy Del Rosario, Peter Amores, Anton del Rosario and striker Aly Borromeo. Navy coach Eduard Antony will turn to his superb finisher Jimmy Doña, midfielders Loreto Kalalang and Norman Somoza as well as rock-solid defender, Richard Leyble. Kick off time for the finals between two of the most dominant football clubs in the country is 6 p.m.

RP U-23 looks lean and mean

THE RP U-23 selection of national coach Aris Caslib beat a young and determined UST squad, 2-0, in its initial appearance in the 'Ang Liga Football Cup' on Thursday. UST coach Nonnoy Carpio employed five midfielders including stars Lord Jay Legpitan and Ric Becite, as well as Arman Esteban as a libero behind two 5-foot-11 central defenders—Joel Pontillas and Tomas Liao. Coach Carpio had the solutions but Caslib held the cards. Defensive lapse in the 56th minute by Becite and Esteban resulted in an 'escapada' by RP's Jeremias Jiao who bended the ball away from outstretched UST keeper Kim Versales to give RP U-23 its first goal. Sixteen minutes later, a poor headed clearance by Pontillas landed on unmarked Ariel Zerrudo, who hammered a shot from inside the box for the final marker.

La Salle badminton tournaments

ALL La Salle Badminton Tournaments are scheduled this Aug. 1-3 for all alumni and Aug. 9-10 for parents, teachers and children. These tournaments are in preparation for the La-Salle-Ateneo Badminton Tournament to be held in November. For information, contact Dr. Bing Guerrero at 0917537566, by fax at 810-4699 or email didi_guerrero@yahoo.com

Age-group chess set tomorrow

THE AUGUST edition of MCC Age-Group Chess-Championships for Under 12 and Under 18 gets underway tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. at the 4th F of J & F Divino Bldg. at #967 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City. The event will employ the seven-round Swiss System and time control of 30 minutes per player in selecting the top three winners in each category. Deadline for registration is until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at the venue or at least before the tournament starts. For details, call the MCC at 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

Go for gold in Nueva Ecija

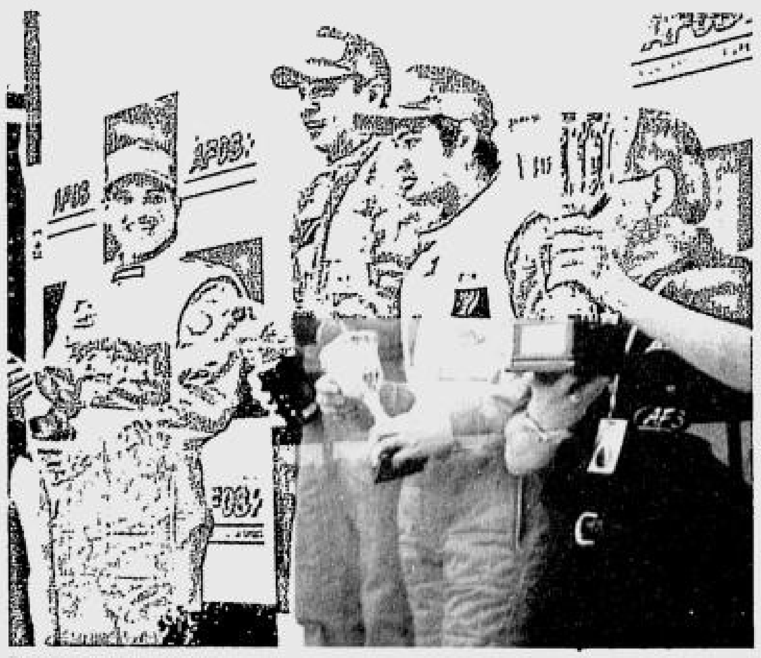
THE NUEVA Ecija and Mandaluyong City boxing teams clashed last night at the Sta. Rosa Municipal Plaza in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija. Those who slugged it out in the event hosted by Edward Thomas Joson, president and CEO of the Nueva Ecija Sports Foundation, were Jayson Agapito and Gerald Dave Garcia (45 kg); Eric Jardaleza and Richard Ignacio (48kg), Eduardo Buenaventura and Joe Bridonia (51 kg), Rafael Laman and Edwin Dabuco (54 kg); Jericho Hizon and Richard Agagad (47kg); Richard Briones and Ian Bustos (60kg) and Richie Bukoy and Dandy Francisco (64kg). Others who saw action in the slugfest sponsored by Waterfront Hotels and Casinos, Family Rubbing Hand Sanitizers, Revicon, Pacific Heights, WG&A Superferry and Accel were Bill Vicera of Bago City and Godfrey Castro of the Philippine Army in the 48kg; Ferdie Gamo and Roel Laguna in the 57kg; Anthony Igusquiza and Jason Melligen in the 60kg; Maraon Golez and Maximiano Tabangcora in the 57kg; and the lone women bout featured Annaliza Cruz and Annie Albania in the 52kg division. The Go for Gold San Juan edition will be featured today at 11 p.m.-12:30 a.m. on ABC 5.

Abac PSC-POC media head

Gilbert "Abac" Cordero was elected president of the Philippine Olympic Committee-Philippine Sports Commission Media Group yesterday in an election held at the group's temporary headquarters at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall in Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Cordero, of Philippine Star replaced the group's long-time president Lorenzo "Jun" Lomibao, assistant sports editor of Today. Also elected together with Cordero are Carmela "Mae" Ochoa of Pilipino Star Ngayon who was re-elected as Internal vice-president, Waylon Galvez of People's Journal as External vice-president, Marivic Awitan of Malaya as secretary, Nick Giongco of Manila Bulletin as treasurer and Marc Reyes of Philippine Daily Inquirer as auditor. Named to the Board of Directors are Olmin Leyba of Tribune, Mike Lee of Bandera, Girlie Turno and Russel Cadayona of Balita, Annie Abad of Taliba and Bobby Rondez of Manila Times who was also appointed as chair of the membership committee.

Calapar-TMC tops Meralco derby

FIGHTING cock Calapar-TMC of insurance man Norberto "Boy" Sauco and partner Gil Tamayo topped the recent Meralco Four-Cock Derby Part II held at the Meralco Compound in Pasig City. Calapar earlier won in March the Meralco 4-Cock Centennial Derby. Participated in by well-known cockers in Metro Manila, the Meralco Sabong for a Cause II was initiated by Meralco chair and CEO Manolo Lopez.



FORMULA 3 CLASS WINNERS
Jojo Silverio (middle) topped the fifth and six rounds of the promotional class of the Asian Formula 3 Series held in Bira, Thailand recently. Silverio thus stretched his lead in the overall standings with 90 points. At left is second placer Mike Potenciano (75 points) and third placer Enzo Tuason (48). Pepon Marave paces the international class with 90 points, followed by Mark Goddard (87) and Richard Joson, respectively.

Palace gives nod to IAAF bid by Go

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok's bid to seek a seat in the International Athletic Federation executive council got another boost recently following the expression of support of Malacañang through presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

"We admire your decision to run for a seat in the International Amateur Athletic Federation when it convenes in Paris on Aug. 23. You truly deserve to be elected in recognition of yourself and our country," said Bunye's letter to Go dated July 31.

The letter came a day after Go celebrated his 59th birthday with a thanksgiving party held at the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association office inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, where he was shot thrice by an assassin on July 1. Go was forced to report for work earlier than advised by his doctors at St. Luke's as the country will be hosting the Asian Athletics Championships next month.

In addition, his vaunted "GTK Army," spearheaded by Eduardo Buenavista and Lerma Bulauitan, are deep in their preparations for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam this December.

But first, Go travels to Paris with a mission to give the Philippines a very important role as one of Asia's voices in the powerful IAAF executive council.

"The least I can do to thank the people who supported me and my family during the most trying moment in my life is to resume my humble contribution to the Filipino athletes and Philippine sports," said Go.

BULAUITAN: Prime RP hopeful
PDI PHOTO

Middle East entries tagged as favorites

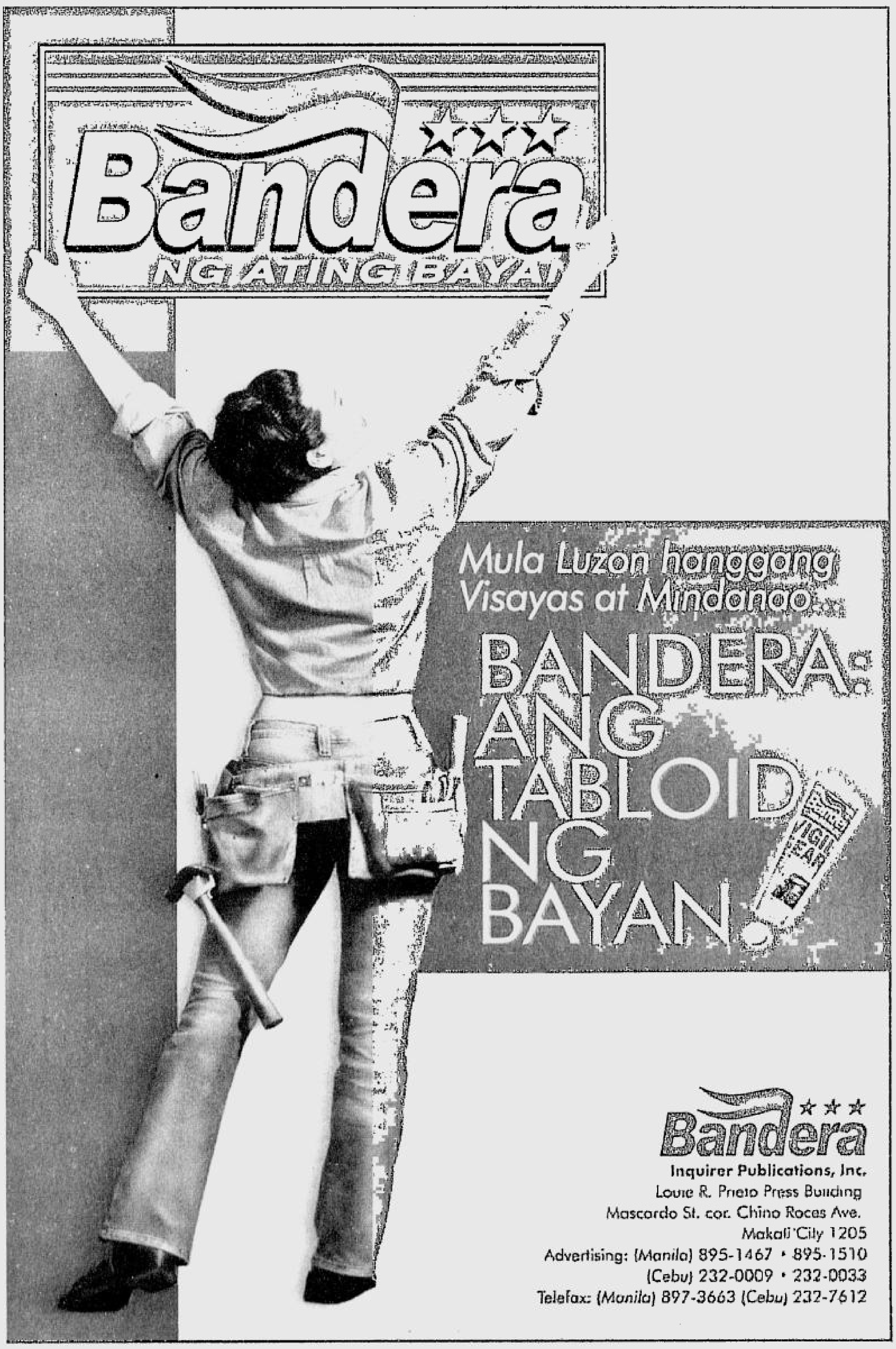
MIDDLE—East countries Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait are favored to rule the men's track events when the 15th Asian Athletics Association championships unfold Sept. 20-23 at the Rizal track and field stadium.

Decathlete Musa Ahmad Hassan, the Iron Man of the 2002 tournament, leads the Qatari charge along with previous gold medalists Suleman Abdulrahman Ahma (1500), Saifeldm Khamis Abdullah (5000 and 3000 steeplechase), Hashim Ahmed Ibrahim (10,000) and 400-m hurdler Al Nubi Mubarak.

Bannering Bahrain are Busan Asian Games winners Mohamed Rashid (800-meter) and Ramshi Rashid (1500) who avenged their defeats in the Sri Lanka edition last year.

Spearheading the Saudis is Asia's fastest man, Al Safaar Jamal, who swept both the previous Asian championships and the Busan Asiad sprint titles. He will be supported by long distance specialist Al Otaibi Makhid, who ruled the 5,000 and the 10,000-m events in Busan last October.

Kuwait's pride is 2002 Asiad titlist Al Shammari Fawzi who topped the 400-m in Korea.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SPORTS

Paragua co-leader in France

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua bested French FIDE Master Alain Spielmann in the sixth round yesterday to gain a share of the lead in the XV Open Cannes International Chess Championships in Cannes, France.

The 20-year-old Paragua raised his total to 5 points, catching up with former solo leader Lexy Ortega of Italy, who forced a draw with fellow GM Milko Povchev of Bulgaria.

Paragua, now an enlisted man of the Philippine Air Force, and Ortega part ways in a pivotal seventh round match over the top board today.

As expected, Asian 3.2a Zonal champion Ronald Dableo settled for a truce with 'compatriot and fellow IM Joseph Sanchez to stay close to the pacesetters.

Dableo and Sanchez, Paragua's coach and trainer, have 4.5 points each and were tied at 3rd to 11th places with GM Igor Miladinovic of Greece, GM Jean-Luc Chabanon, IM Patrice Etchegaray and FM Benoit Taddei of France, GM Milko Popchev, Lijubomir Scala and Dimitar Marholev of Bulgaria.

The European stint of Paragua is being supported by the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo Foundation, Hector Tagaysay, Dickies vice president Dody Aracaya, Albert Cruz, the National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the Philippine Sports Commission.

"Please pray for us," said Paragua. *Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

Rodman denies sexual raps

SANTA ANA, California—Former NBA bad boy Dennis Rodman told a civil trial Thursday that he doesn't remember meeting the woman who accused him of sexual assault.

The suit alleges Rodman drugged, raped and imprisoned former waitress Jo Len Ann McGowen in his Newport Beach home in March 2001. Rodman, 42, has been sued at least twice in the past for allegedly assaulting women.

The suit filed by McGowen, 39, alleges Rodman met her at a Newport Beach restaurant that he co-owns and gave her beer that she claims was laced with a narcotic. She said she was taken to Rodman's home nearby, raped several times and prevented from leaving as she slipped in and out of consciousness.

Rodman, sporting midnight blue hair and multiple rings in his nose, lips and ears, said Thursday he doesn't recall meeting the plaintiff and denied raping her.

"I have no recollection of Ms McGowen," said Rodman. "I don't think anyone can remember where they were in March 2001." *AP*

EX-NBA star Rodman tells the court he can't remember the woman who has accused her of rape. AP

LEAR: "I'm ready for Felisilda."

Hitman vows KO win in title defense

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

CEBU CITY—Philippine bantam champion Johnny "The Hitman" Lear of SGG Stable yesterday vowed to keep his crown when he tangles with mandatory challenger Alvin Felisilda in a 12-round slugfest on Aug. 8 at the Mandaluyong Gym in a card dubbed "Bakbakan sa Mandaluyong."

The event, which has the full backing of Mandaluyong City mayor Benhur Abalos and the Philippine Sportswriters' Association (PSA), is also supported by Ernie Yu and Family Rubbing Alcohol, Jimmy Sy and Red Bull, Unilab, Revicon, Legend Hotel, San Miguel Corporation and Gov. Tony Puyat of the Rotary Club 3800 with the proceeds going to the Filipino Disabled Boxers' Fund.

The Lear-Felisilda showdown will serve as the undercard of the Rolly Lunas-Deeden Kengkarun clash for the PABA flyweight diadem.

The 24-year-old Lear, with 6KOs in 18 fights, won his crown with an easy unanimous decision win over veteran Rey Llagas last year. He was on his way to winning the WBC International title last March 15 but a cut inflicted by Roger Galicia stopped him. Lear was originally scheduled to face Galicia in a rematch, but the latter turned down the offer.

"I'm ready to defend against Felisilda. I will win by knockout," said Lear in an interview with the this writer at the ALA Gym here where he is currently training under Moray Quijano. In preparation for the Bukidnon-based Felisilda, Lear has been sparring against RP superbantam champ Jimrex Jaca, Pedro Malco, Ronnie Cañete, and young phenoms Sherwin Paro and Z Gorres.

Rubillar eyes convincing victory over Mananquil

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

WORLD Boxing Council (WBC) International junior flyweight champion Juanito Rubillar fights Rogelio Mananquil again tonight in the top 10-round bout of the Ringside@Elorde card at the Olivarez College gym in Parañaque.

Rubillar, a 26-year-old native of Mati, Davao Oriental, said he would try to win convincingly this time, having settled for a split decision in his first meeting with Mananquil last July 18, 1998 in Mandaluyong City.

"I have to be careful because I need to win this and my next fight," said Rubillar in Filipino.

Rubillar, who has to defend his WBC International crown in October, has to stay unbeaten if he wants to take another crack at WBC junior flyweight champion Jorge Arce of Mexico next year.

Arce beat Rubillar two years ago for the WBC junior fly interim title, but the hard-hitting Filipino champ believes he has a better chance now given an opportunity to prepare well for the fight

"I had a chance in our first fight but I didn't have strong sparmates then. Next time, I'll be ready for Arce," said Rubillar.

Lunas stakes crown vs Thai Aug. 8

Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

THE HIGHLY anticipated "Bakbakan sa Mandaluyong" set on Aug. 8 at the Mandaluyong City gymnasium will showcase the title defense of two of the country's best fighters.

Pan-Asia Boxing Association junior fly champion Rolly Lunas will stake his crown against Thai hero Deeden Kengkarun in the 12-round mainer of the event, which is co-presented by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) and LS International

Philippine bantam king Johnny Lear tries to keep his crown against top-ranked contender Alvin Felisilda in the other featured Cebu-based bout.

Mandaluyong City mayor Benhur Abalos has already expressed his support for the said event.

Proceeds of the promotion will go to the Filipino Disabled Boxers' Fund.

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20 TANKERS — ISUZU CXO 12KL TANKER
150 CARGO TRUCKS — FUSO FIGHTER CARGO TRUCK
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Fil-Ams, Euro-Fil booters to bolster RP team roster

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has given the Philippine Football Federation until the end of this month to bring in the 'international footballers' who will reinforce the RP football squad to the SEA Games in Vietnam in December.

Some of the players will be coming for trials while others will be sending their resumes and letters of intent.

The Pinoy-Internationals are all under 23 years of age. They play a variety of positions from keeper to defense, mid and attack and may be groomed for future participation in the 2005 SEA Games in Manila.

The Fil-Am/Euro-Fil footballers are Andy and Sascha Prochnow from Germany; Robert Hollands, Michael Napolitano and Chris Greatwich from England and Robert Struebeck and Robert Watwood from the USA.

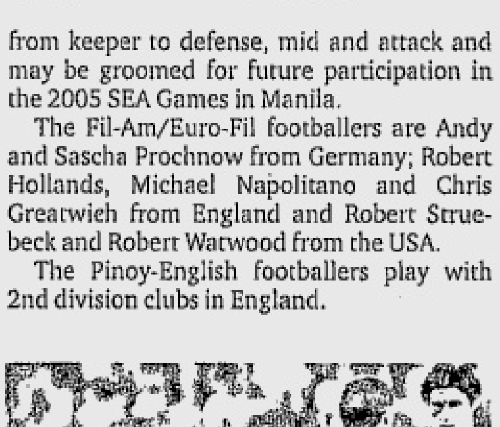
The Pinoy-English footballers play with 2nd division clubs in England.

Manchester United stops Juventus, 4-1

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Ruud van Nistelrooy lit up Manchester United's pre-season tour of the United States with another stunning goal as the English champions kept up their good form with a 4-1 friendly win over Juventus on Thursday.

Van Nistelrooy used his chest to control a lofted pass from Juan Sebastian Veron in the 60th minute before turning in one movement to hit a fierce right-foot volley past keeper Antonio Chimenti and into the roof of the net.

The Dutchman's third goal of the tour put United 3-0 up at the Giants Stadium on a night when Tim Howard, the US international, made a confident debut in goal for Alex Ferguson's side. *AP*



ROY Keane of Manchester United makes his feelings clear to Alessio Tacchinardi of Juventus in their Champions World Series match Thursday. AFP

Twin kill for Sison at Eagle Ridge

BUSINESSMAN Roberto Sison achieved a twin-kill at the Faldo course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in General Trias, Cavite recently when he ruled both the men's monthly members tilt and the seniors competition for July. Sison first topped Group I of the seniors event with a net score of 71.2 then came back nine days later to shoot an 87 and capture the Class C plum in the members tourney, stealing the show from overall winners Rodolfo Villanueva and Japanese expatriate Yoshinori Ikeda. Ikeda banked on a better back nine score of 59 to edge Manfred Guanko and Frederick Garcia in Class A. The other champions were Vicente Onella in Class B, Roger Mercado in Class D and Divina Sanders in the ladies division. Other senior winners were Jun Cerega (Group II) and Manuel Tayag (Group III).

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS **From page A23**

1. True 2. Emmanuel 3. 'Blow by Blow' 4. Mamagaya 5. 6th 6. Rustico Torrecampo 7. Tailor

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BIR, Customs collections exceed targets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAUS of Internal Revenue and of Customs yesterday said they exceeded their collection targets in July, raising hopes that the government would contain the budget deficit below the P17.13-billion ceiling for the fourth straight month.

Asked if the deficit could be within target in July, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said there was no reason why the government could not sustain the trend.

"If the BIR and Customs exceed their targets, then we have a very good chance. Remember, we have a P22-billion leeway from the first half," the finance chief said in an interview.

The fiscal gap in the first semester reached only P79.6 billion against a ceiling of P102.2 billion. The BIR and Customs account for more than 90 percent of total government income.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said his agency, based on preliminary figures, collected taxes and tariff reaching P9.48 billion in July against a target of P9.11 billion. Collections last month were P1.615 billion or 20 percent more than the year-ago level.

"In the first seven months, our collection was already P5.9 billion or 10.4 percent more than last year and P10.25 billion or 19.6 percent more than the target," Bernardo said.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the BIR likely met and exceeded the target of P33.46 billion in July after the large taxpayers' group, which collects 60 percent of the target, already surpassed its goal.

In July 2002, the BIR raised P32.48 billion from taxes.

While Customs collections come in almost in real time because the shipments are covered by letters of credit, the BIR must rely on reports of district offices and banks that normally have a five-day lag time, Parayno explained.

"We have nine more days to go before we will know the actual collection. But we have observed that we exceed our target if we are already ahead of last year's collection by the middle of the month. And in July, as of the 17th, we were already ahead of last year," the BIR chief said.

"I must credit the efforts of all district collectors for the good performance of Customs. We are really exerting all efforts to deliver as much as we can," Bernardo said.

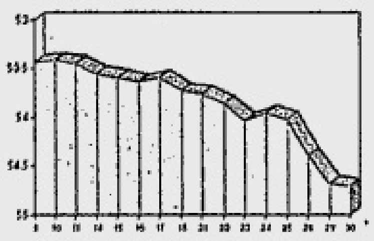
The BIR and Customs must deliver P424 billion and P100.56 billion, respectively, to state coffers this year as both agencies vowed to continue implementing reforms that would ensure that last year's revenue shortfalls would not be repeated.

Poor collection of the BIR and Customs last year pushed the deficit to P210.7 billion against an original target of P130 billion.

Meeting revenue targets would allow the government to keep its budget deficit well within the P202-billion ceiling this year.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.87 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 1, 2003

¥ 120.38 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 1, 2003

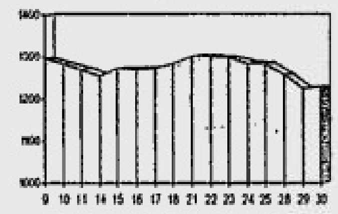
GOLD: $354.50-355.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 1, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares down 0.41%

SHARE prices closed 0.41 percent lower yesterday, with investors still unsettled amid fears of another possible coup attempt against President Gloria Arroyo, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 5.12 points to 1,235.30 after trading between 1,233.19 and 1,242.76.

"Investors are still very cautious that they would either opt to stay on the sidelines or refrain from holding their shares over a longer timeframe," said Terence Chan of Citiseconline.com.

"Money has already started moving out," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities, saying the upturn in previous days was not sustainable.

The slump came after the President warned the short-lived military mutiny by some 300 soldiers last Sunday was not the end of the plot and that rogue soldiers and their political backers were still planning to topple the government.

Volume turnover fell to 406.57 million shares worth P459.55 million from 462.31 million shares worth P513.32 million on Thursday.

AFP

Net portfolio investments surge

FOREIGN portfolio investments yielded a net inflow of $83.8 million in the four weeks to July 25, the highest in recent years, bringing to $313.4 million the net "hot money" inflow in the first seven months as investors reacted positively to improving fiscal and other economic numbers.

The previous month's gains, however, could be easily wiped out this month as investors have become jittery following the failed mutiny last weekend that sent stock prices down and the peso closer to 55 to $1.

The peso slipped to 54.96 against the greenback but managed to close at 54.87, the lowest level since March 19.

The net inflow in July reversed the net outflow of $9.4 million a year ago. The seven-month net investments was 69 percent more than the $127.9 million in the same period last year.

The last time the net inflow for the month reached the level of $80 million was in November 2000 when investors anticipated the resignation of then President Estrada after the juetengate scandal erupted.

Sources said that if the trend continues, this year's portfolio investments could match the performance in 1999 when net inflows reached $473.4 million. Last year, hot money net inflow stood at only $202 million.

Data submitted to the central bank by five custodian banks showed that in the first seven months, inbound funds hit $721.9 million while outbound money reached $408.5 million.

Clarissa S. Batino

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Coup is on the other foot

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS cute administration of Gloriaetta, from what I gathered, had to put off a multibillion-peso bond float.

The investors abroad, thanks to the weekend coup attempt, were asking for way too much interest rates on the bonds.

Already, as an offshoot of the coup, rates on existing dollar-denominated bonds of the government, the so-called ROP bonds, jumped from about 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent.

For an addict to foreign borrowings like our country, such a jump is not just a "blip." It can mean hundreds of millions of pesos more in debt service alone.

And so I guess no amount of our congratulating each other, really, can make the investors abroad see that the attempted coup was just a … well, shopping mall excursion.

* * *

HOW do they say it again—the shoe is on the other foot?

This cute administration of Gloriaetta must now wear the shoe of resolve to fend off the economic infection from the athlete's foot of business anxiety created by the fungus of the weekend coup. Whew!

Anyway, the Palace claims that it handled the rebellion of a small group of young military officers well, pointing out that not a single drop of blood was shed, with the whole thing even resolved in less than 24 hours.

It was a "success," and so how could business not be thankful for all that?

* * *

BECAUSE, like it or not, this cute administration must now face up to the effects of the weekend excursion on … what else … the economy.

Among the initial casualties of that, ahh, "successfully resolved" coup, as I said, was the multimillion-dollar bond float of this cute administration.

Instead of explaining away the jump in the dollar bond rates as a fluke, business wants some hard decisions from this cute administration.

Indeed, if this cute administration slips from hereon, that one-day mall outing can wreak havoc on the economy. This, for Gloriaetta, may even mean goodbye to 2004.

For the plunge in business confidence is the big worry in business—and not just among those guys in the Makati Business Club who happen to be the lawyers of Piatco.

* * *

LET'S take a look at the gross international reserves, or the GIR. Based on Bangko Sentral figures, the GIR is dropping so fast, it is scaring the business community.

The GIR is not the cousin of the GRO. The GIR tells the whole world how well, or how poorly, we can afford to pay our foreign obligation.

Our stock of foreign exchange is dwindling, precisely, because we are sending more of it abroad than we are getting as, for instance, borrowings and OFW earnings.

Look, the BOP, the so-called balance of payments, a record of our dealings with the rest of the world, is posting a negative $520 million. That's a shortfall, okay!

We cover for it by borrowing more dollars. What if we cannot borrow anymore, as an aftermath of the successful quelling of the coup? Problem.

* * *

TODAY, aside from financing our trade liberalization program (i.e. more imports from China), we have to borrow overseas to pay our maturing debts.

The national government alone, and it's not even the entire "public sector," has amassed debts which are now equivalent to 70 percent of the entire economy.

Of course, the government's level of debts already raised some concerns in Congress. I can assure you that nothing can come out of their deep concern.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, for example, is calling for a cap on foreign debts equivalent to 100 percent of the GDP. Just calling for, mind you!

I thought it's a bit too late for all that musing now. We have become a country addicted to foreign loans. We just have to keep on borrowing overseas.

Or else we default on our maturing debts. In other words, we have to get more loans abroad just to pay off yet more loans. Ah, the good life!

* * *

THAT successful quashing of the coup, plus its effects on the confidence of foreign investors on our economy, in effect, can worsen the BOP deficit.

The deficit is partly due to the slowdown in our biggest export. And that is, well, human beings.

We are deploying less OFWs than what this cute administration originally expected. This means less dollar remittance.

For one, the war in Iraq is not yet over. More US troops are dying now than they did during the war itself. We still don't have OFWs in Iraq.

Thus we don't see the so-called "windfall" from the support which this cute administration readily extended to Pareng George.

* * *

MOREOVER, in SARS-freed Hong Kong, we are down by more than 20,000 in domestic helpers. Other nationals in the region are taking over the jobs of the Pinays there.

Well, this cute administration threatened that, if the Hong Kong government would cut the salaries of the Filipino domestics there, it would stop sending the DH.

Very well! Hong Kong laws, by the way, also allow cuts in salaries. When they say in Hong Kong they are reviewing the pay scale, it's either to raise, freeze, or cut it.

I guess we got so used to our kind of wage reviews. In our country, when we review wages, it always means just one thing. And that is, raise them or else…

Such a trend we owe partly to politics. Yet this cute administration does not want us to ask questions about its plan for 2004. It is just politics.

* * *

AS for more foreign investments, aside from the slowdown in the entry of foreign funds into the stock market, we see a lack of interest in the purchase of our banks' idle assets.

Recently, from what I understand, Bank of the Philippine Islands held a public auction for its foreclosed assets.

Earlier, everybody expected BPI to do a deal with Lehman Brothers. This cute administration, in one of its visits to the US, claimed Lehman was dying to invest here.

You know what—in that BPI auction, Lehman Brothers did not even bid for a foreclosed broken chair. I heard BPI is talking to another company on a negotiated sale.

Look at that—a bidding. The guys abroad know that, if you are in dire straits, you will bite any price. That's why they raised the rates on the government's dollar bonds.

Why will they compete with one another, such as through an auction, for something that the seller is willing to get rid of fast, anyway. That's just business.

* * *

NOW it's just business when all sorts of political characters paraded themselves in Malacañang in front of television cameras to express support for this cute administration.

That is politics. They are all candidates in 2004, of course. Everybody had to claim they could save the day for this country in that one-day coup.

In the aftermath, everybody must therefore claim the credit. I hope we remember all of them in 2004. Or better yet, we forget their names.

Speaker Yoda Venecia claimed credit for the peace talks which never produced peace. We are still infested with rebellion of all sorts, left and right, and religious.

* * *

ABOUT three and a half dozens committees will be formed to investigate the … well, "incident."

In the aftermath, political characters also must moralize on television. They are the same characters who are causing all this disgust among the citizenry. They are famous for stealing a lot of money from us.

As a foreign diplomat aptly put it, it is fine that the government quelled the rebellion, without a bloodshed, all in one day, but thing is, it should not have happened at all in the first place.

Why is that? Well, it's simply because we cannot afford it.

INDIAN CONGLOMERATE

Benpres sells call center unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOPEZES' Benpres Holdings Corp. has sold its call center subsidiary Customer Contact Center Inc. (C3) to the Hinduja conglomerate of India as part of its asset rationalization program.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Benpres corporate secretary Enrique Quiason said the stock purchase agreement was signed on July 30 and the deal was completed yesterday.

C3 is one of the biggest call center operators in the Philippines with a network of 450 seats in multiple locations, mainly in Metro Manila, Cebu and San Francisco, California.

Benpres did not say how much was generated from the sale of the call center unit, which had a book value of at least P100 million.

"As announced in the balance sheet management plan, Benpres is focusing on its core-assets: media (ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp.) and power (First Philippine Holdings Corp.). As the call center is outside of the core, this has been identified as an asset for divestment," Quiason said.

"The funds have been earmarked for servicing of Benpres debt," he added.

C3 was established in June 2001 initially handling the customer call services of other Lopez-controlled firms like Bayan Telecommunications Inc., Manila Electric Co., SkyCable and an international banking services company. Five months later, it teamed up with US-based Source One Communications Inc., thus securing large foreign clients and catapulting itself into the global playing field.

Parent firm Benpres, for its part, has put non-core assets on the block as part of measures to address $554.3 million in debts. Earlier this year, Benpres secured a mandate from shareholders to fast-track its debt restructuring, including the possibility of yielding to court receivership if needed to protect itself from hostile creditors.

The Lopez conglomerate, which was badly hit by investments in water utility Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Bayantel, has mapped out a three-pronged approach in its balance sheet management: Reduce debts by prompting subsidiaries to pay their own debts and divesting subsidiaries with guaranteed debt; raise cash through an orderly asset sale and reduce costs by suspending fresh capital outlays.

C3's new owner, the Hinduja group, is a diversified conglomerate with core interests in infrastructure, particularly power, and also has global investments in transport, technology, media and communications, banking and finance, project development, chemicals, and trading.

Aboitiz earmarks ₱2B for expansion program

THE ABOITIZ conglomerate is spending more than P2 billion to expand its transportation businesses this year, bulk of which will fund the fleet modernization program of WG&A Shipping Inc., the country's biggest shipping company.

In a briefing yesterday, WG&A president Enrique Aboitiz said the shipping firm could chalk up P8 billion in revenues this year compared to about P7 billion last year on the back of a 4-5 percent growth in volumes.

The 2003 revenue forecast also factored in the expansion in capacity as a result of the acquisition of new ships. In terms of net profit, Aboitiz said WG&A was hoping to "do better than last year" but declined to give figures.

We continue to invest in all of our businesses as a whole," Aboitiz said, noting that the group was bullish as there was no way for the market to go but up.

For WG&A alone, the capital expenditure allotment stood at P1.8 billion, inclusive of about P1.2 billion for the purchase of two new Superferries due for delivery this August.

Another P200-P300 million is earmarked for other transportation-related businesses of WG&A's parent company, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., including about P150 million for Aboitiz One and P100 million for fast-craft or Supercat operator Philippine Fast Ferry Corp.

Aboitiz One is the group's domestic and international air, sea, and land delivery & logistics service arm, whose products include QuikBox/QuikPac/QuikCash/D&S & Aboitiz Express. On the other hand, Supercat is the largest fast-craft (catamaran) operator in the country.

WG&A is launching the two new ships, SuperFerry 17 and 18, to support President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's nautical highway project, a network of terminals all over the country that seeks to bridge the food baskets of Mindanao with the rich consumer markets of Luzon.

With Superferry 17 and 18, WG&A plans to boost its services to major ports and islands with increased frequency: six times a week to and from Cebu; five times a week to and from Bacolod; three times a week to and from General Santos and Davao; and, two times a week to and from Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

The shipping firm expects to secure a P1-billion loan from the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines to fund the purchase of the new ships. WG&A will cover the 10-percent down payment and will get short-term loans while awaiting disbursement of the long-term funding from DBP.

WG&A, which serves 22 ports nationwide, derives half of its business from passenger and the rest from cargo. It has an annual traffic of about 6 million passengers and more than 300,000 containers for cargo.

Aboitiz said WG&A's freight business had a current capacity utilization rate of 90 percent while the rate for the passenger segment stood at 60 percent.

The Aboitiz group is a diversified conglomerate with interests in power generation and distribution, banking and financial services, food, property development and transportation.

Doris C. Dumlao

INTEREST RATES

Aug. 1, 2003
MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 1-Aug-03	MART1
1 Month	6.2875	6.2481
3 Months	6.285	6.2589
6 Months	7.0911	6.9946
1 Year	7.6967	7.4357
2 Years	9.4696	8.9423
3 Years	10.3867	9.7661
4 Years	10.6817	10.2464
5 Years	10.8267	10.4804
7 Years	11.6967	11.3096
10 Years	11.78	11.6804
20 Years	12.0983	12.0732
25 Years	12.4817	12.3589

SOURCE MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 1, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19	18.75	19	80,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46	45	45	174,300
Citystate Savings Bank	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	35.5	33	34	867,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	29.5	30	149,900
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	67,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	5,024,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	24	23.5	23.75	106,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	230,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1600	1590	1600	440
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	91,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1135	1150	1135	1150	1,680
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	20	20	13,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	2,450,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	665	660	665	33,330
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.055	0.0575	26,800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.035	0.044	0.035	0.042	86,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	2,860,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	535	535	520	525	350,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	180,000
Vivant Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	30,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	58,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.75	632,100
Manila Electric Co. B	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	335,000
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	3,193,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,021,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	8,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	401,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	53	52.5	53	38,400
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	62.5	62.5	62.5	115,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Ayala Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.65	3,504,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	57,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.037	0.04	0.037	0.04	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.84	135,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.63	0.64	8,200,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,010,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	400,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.25	15.25	438,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	230,000
Ionics Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.4	1.48	1,372,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	302,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	70,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	2,050,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.37	2,070,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.18	0.18	510,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.36	0.42	0.36	0.38	2,060,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	5,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	33,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	1,600,000
SPI Technologies Inc	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.25	138,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	550,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	300,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.25	20.25	20	20	72,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	18,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	2,262,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	2,250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.235	0.235	2,940,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,096,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.23	0.205	0.205	1,890,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.23	600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	4,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	1,229,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	25,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	22,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.003	76,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	8,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	300,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **ISM Communications Corp.** were Roberto Ongpin, Alberto Montilla, Ignacio Ortigas, Rafael Ortigas, Roberto San Jose, Luciano Tan, Roberto Valdes, Jose Ernesto Villaluna Jr., Alex Villamar, Gregorio Ma. Araneta III, Reynaldo David, Craig Ehrlich, O.V. Espiritu, Augusto Gan and Ernest Fritz Server.

***

CATHERINE Manahan has resigned as independent director of **Jardine Davies Inc.**

***

ASIATRUST Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 21, 2 p.m. with record date on Nov. 6 to determine stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

CITY Resources (Philippines) Corp. disclosed the designation of Ana Ma. Margarita Dy as acting compliance officer of the company.

***

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 25, 4 p.m. at the VIP Room of PRCI Santa Ana Park, Makati City.

***

MARSTEEL Consolidated Inc. denied having any information that can explain the 50-percent increase in its share price that rose from P0.011 to P0.016 per share.

***

BENPRES Holdings Corp. disclosed the sale of its entire stake in the call center Customer Contact Center Inc. to a company controlled by the Hinduja Group of India. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 1, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.889442	1.000000	54.734000
Japan	Yen	0.007380	0.008297	0.454100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.433158	1.611300	88.192900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.114046	0.128222	7.018100
Switzerland	Franc	0.649655	0.730407	39.978100
Canada	Dollar	0.633641	0.712403	38.992700
Singapore	Dollar	0.505365	0.568182	31.098900
Australia	Dollar	0.575653	0.647207	35.424200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.359326	2.652590	145.186900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.237172	0.266652	14.594900
Brunei	Dollar	0.503933	0.566572	31.010800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021193	0.023827	1.304100
UAE	Dirham	0.242190	0.272294	14.903700
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.124300	61.537400
Argentina	Peso	0.305651	0.343643	18.809000
Brazil	Real	0.300183	0.337496	18.472500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134581	0.151309	8.281700
India	Rupee	0.019315	0.021716	1.188600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.234095	0.263193	14.405600
Mexico	New Peso	0.083993	0.094433	5.168700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514813	0.578804	31.680300
Norway	Kroner	0.122134	0.137315	7.515800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015455	0.017376	0.951100
South Africa	Rand	0.121178	0.136240	7.457000
Korea	Won	0.000753	0.000847	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.108370	0.121840	6.668800
Syria	Pound	0.021178	0.023810	1.303200
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025924	0.029146	1.595300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000558	0.000627	0.034300

PPA slashes Nautical Highway terminal fees

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority has reduced the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) terminal fees to encourage travelers and traders to use the country's roll-on, roll-off (Ro-Ro) shipping network.

Under PPA memorandum circular no. 17-2003, rates for various types of vehicles transported via Ro-Ro have been slashed by a range of P8.50 (for motorcycles and the like) to P533 (for heavy trucks.)

For motorcycles, tricycles and scooters, the terminal fee is now down to P50.00 from P58.50. For cars, mini vans, sports utility vehicles (SUV), Asian utility vehicles (AUV), owner-type jeeps and public utility jeeps (PUJ) seating not more than 16 people, the fee was reduced to P100.00 from P123.50.

For light delivery vans, pick-up trucks and PUJs seating more than 16 people, the tariff has been slashed to P200.00 from P249.00. For stake trucks, heavy delivery trucks, passenger or tourist buses, tractor heads and prime movers, the rate has gone down to P400.00 from P933.00.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the initiative was aimed at encouraging the use of the Nautical Highway, a flagship project of the Macapagal administration.

He added that these new rates were put in place to make business more viable for entrepreneurs in the countryside.

PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi, for his part, said the lower Ro-Ro tariff rates would complement President Macapagal-Arroyo's thrust of lowering the transport costs of goods from Mindanao to other parts of the country via the SRNH.

"The setting of the Ro-Ro tariff rates is PPA's way of complementing the operation and realization of the President's Strong Republic Nautical Highway. Secretary Mendoza has been telling us to find other ways to make the SRNH truly viable, thus this new tariff," he said in a statement yesterday.

"With this new Ro-Ro tariff, our aim here is to bolster inter-island trade as well as promote tourism with the much lower rates to be used in the ports covered by the SRNH," he added.

He said these revised rates already included charges for the use of port facilities and services.

MWC, Maynilad renew performance bonds

By Christine A. Gaylican

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Company Inc. have renewed their performance bonds signifying their continued operations in their respective concession areas in Metro Manila.

The performance bond serves as a guarantee fund that can be withdrawn by Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System if any of the concessionaires buckle down on their concession obligations.

MWSS said the Ayala Group's water subsidiary MWC, which services the east zone areas of Manila, had filed their standby letter of credit for its $70-million performance bond ahead of schedule.

MWSS finance chief Estrellito A. Polloso said in an interview that MWC filed the renewal of its performance bond as early as July, or more than four months before its existing bond expires in December. The banks that guaranteed MWC's performance bond were Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and ING Barings.

West zone concessionaire Maynilad, for its part, renewed its performance bond worth $150 million, Benpres Holdings chief finance officer Angel S. Ong confirmed the other day.

Ong said the move was in compliance with the order of International Arbitration Panel, which hears Maynilad's case on the early termination of its concession, that sought the renewal of the bond before July 15. Its bond expired July 31.

This meant that Maynilad's 13 creditor-banks led by Citibank N.A., Credit Lyonnais, Chase Manhattan International Finance, Ltd., Credit Industriel et Commercial, Fortis Bank and KBC Bank N.V. have agreed to put up the money on the Lopez company's behalf.

Maynilad is a joint venture between the Lopez group and Ondeo Philippines, formerly Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France. It covers the west zone consisting of Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

MWSS said Maynilad had not submitted the complete documents endorsing the standby letter of credit filed by its agent bank Citibank Group.

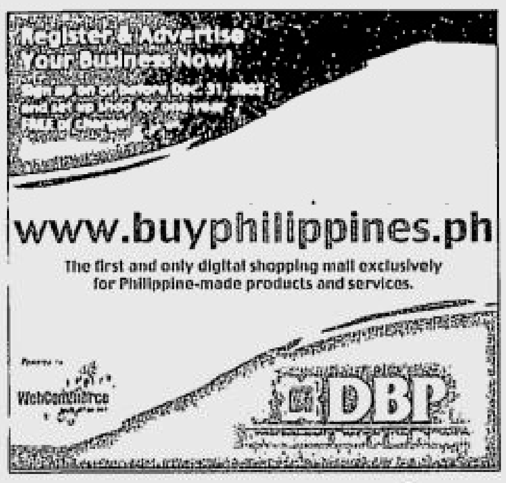
"We need to see the formal endorsement by Maynilad and a special power of attorney from the different banks signifying that the Citibank Group will be signing on their behalf. We have not seen these documents," MWSS officials said in an interview.

MWSS and Maynilad have been in a row over the use of the performance bond. MWSS was given a standing order by the International Arbitration Panel not to touch the bond until the hearings on the termination case were over.

Maynilad has not been paying its financial obligations with MWSS since March 2001 and it filed its early termination case in December 2002.

MWSS, through the national government, has been shouldering Maynilad's financial obligations. It wanted to tap into the bond to cover Maynilad's unpaid concession fees amounting to P15 billion.

MWSS has resorted to borrowing from foreign and commercial banks to settle these obligations and is set to borrow some $190 million more this year.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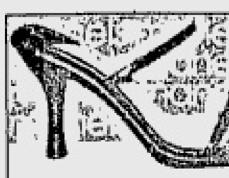
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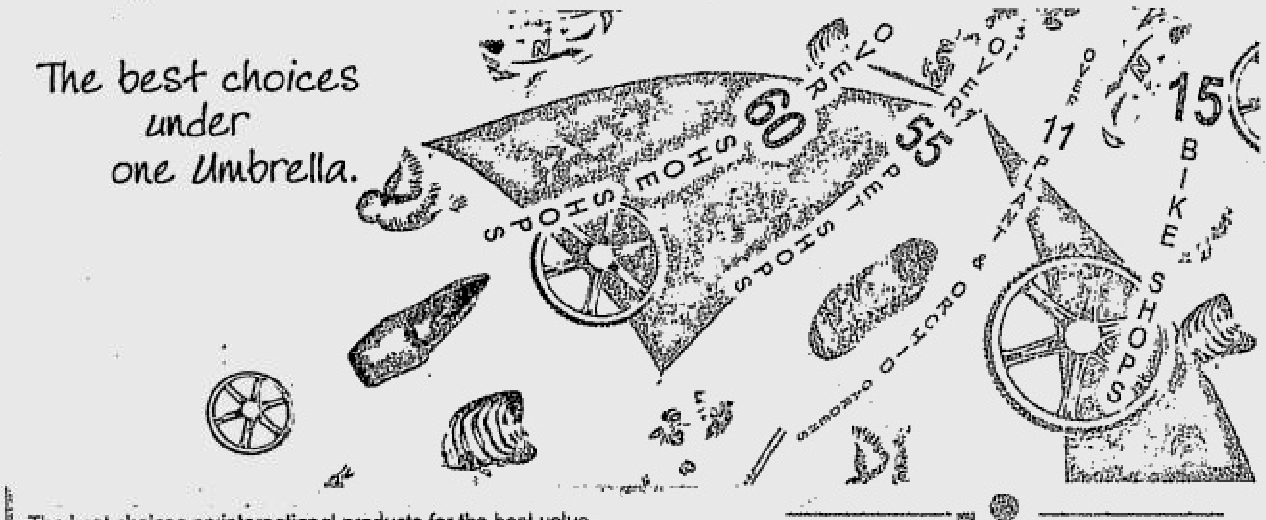

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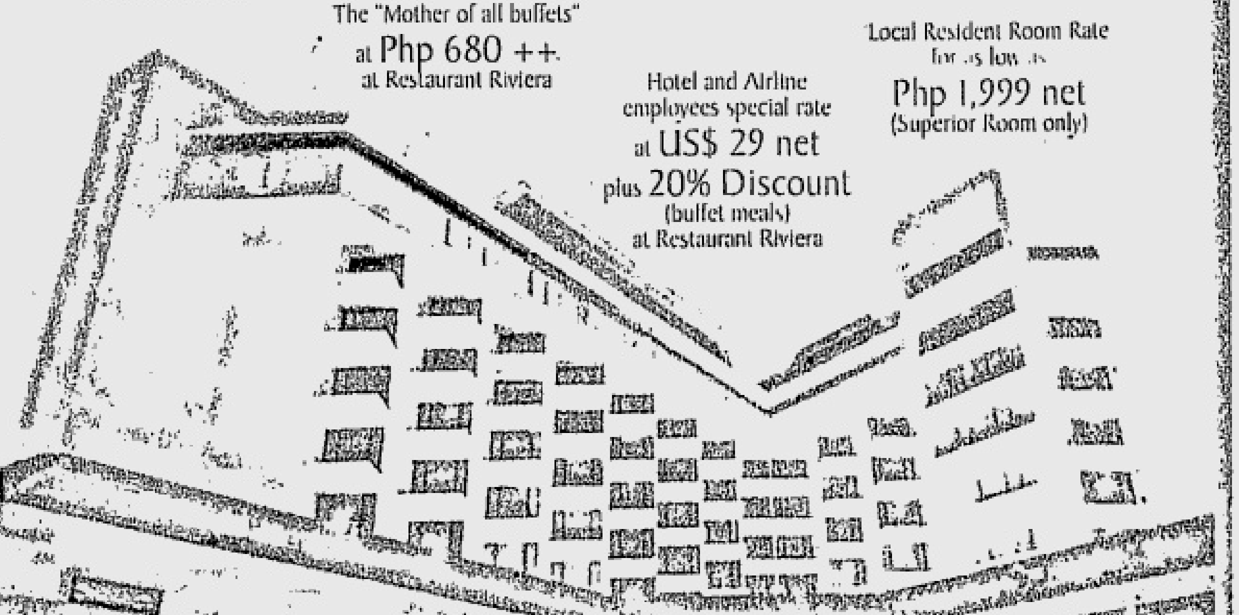

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LAGUNA

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MANILA

1BR&3BR nrP.GIL 5634007 5642878

QUEZON CITY

•P6.5T 2BR T-926-7433

U/D 2BDR Apt w/Garage 154 Mariveles QC 7415207

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STA MESA Owed MTER CR PSGE WAY STRG H2O 7133259

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Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

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•POWER VAN 236T 9267383

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96 Pajero all org 532-3936

•DELICA A/T 285T 926-7383

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'01 SRJ 2L AT Blue all leather 0917-8952700, 6321406 DBO

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CARS FOR RENT

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A*TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MB STAREX URVAN 8276605

MB•7415897•09192001143

REVO w/driver 9272821

VAN B-NEW SCAPADE 843-5701

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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San Juan Tel. 725-1114

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Ofc Mktg Staf 09186532375 Vince

OFC/MKTG STF 0920-8062187

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
• August 11, 2003 •
All unredeemed articles from March 1-31, 2003
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkti 1PM.
•108 Legaspi St Mkti 2PM.
" ZAMORA Lic Auctioneer"

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City
Auction Sale on August 6, 2003 all unredeemed pledges during the month of March 1-31, 2003. Nuestra Br II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am. Damus Pawnshop-12:30pm, Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br IX - 3:00pm.
Sons of J Lanuza Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on August 8, 2003. All unredeemed pledges during the month of March 1-31, 2003. Diajado Main-8:30am; Diajade Br. I-10:30am. Diajade Br. II-11:30am
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the heirs of PAZ SANTI (SANTE) agreed to settle extrajudicially her estate: Lot :289 - A and house thereon in Binan, Laguna w/TCT No. Doc 122 Page 25 Book 20 Series 1994 before Notary Public Librado G. Cuadras of Manila
PDI-August 2, 9 & 16, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Petron Corp Stock Cert. # 854471 1261371, 1465416 w/ 3000 shrs and 71066; 741278; 1249406; 146547 w/3000 shrs under the name of Carlos B. Andres. If no contest rec'd on or bef Aug. 9, 2003 new stock cert. will be issued & transferred to Maria Elizabeth Andres Palencia, legal & sole heir of Carlos B. Andres.
(PDI-July 26, Aug. 2, & 9 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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RTW Consign 3738821

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN

The dynamic Chairman of this rapidly expanding and diversified group of companies is seeking an Executive Assistant.

This is an exciting opportunity but is a highly demanding role.

The successful candidate will work as the "right-hand" to the Chairman, will be required to attend meetings at the highest levels within the business community and must be capable of handling a multitude of tasks with total competence and confidence.

She will be a graduate of a major university and Masters degree / MBA will be advantageous. Spoken and written English must be impeccable. Total computer literacy in Word / PowerPoint / Excel and Outlook is a pre-requisite. Meticulous attention to detail is essential. Obviously outstanding inter-personal skills and exceptional personal presentation are required.

Youth is not a barrier to consideration for this position providing the requirements set out are met. If you have the skills we can develop you in the role.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates and will be treated in strict confidentiality. They should be forwarded to:

PO Box MK - 128
c/o Classified Ads Department
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Ground Floor Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture and Sports
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
3rd Floor, Bonifacio Building DECS Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22/26 Fax No. 636-51-73

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Loan No. : 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No. : ADB-OE-SEDIP-2003

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Various Office Equipment
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Various Office Equipment.
3. The mode of procurement shall be through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB). A bidder may opt to bid on any or all items required.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the BAC Office, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Tel. #6321361 loc. 2019
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting August 4, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos Only (P300.00).
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount and must be delivered in accordance with the instructions to Bidders on or before 10:00 a.m. on September 5, 2003 and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
7. Prior to the bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 20, 2003 at the same time and address as indicated in paragraph 6.
8. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award of Contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking or any bid.

(Sgd.) **USEC JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Aug 2 & 9, 2003)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Agriculture
National Irrigation Administration
(Pambansang Pangasiwaan ng Patubig)
CASECNAN MULTIPURPOSE IRRIGATION AND POWER PROJECT
OFFICE ADDRESS CLSU Compound, Muñoz Science City, Philippines
TELEPHONE (044) 456 0272
TELEFAX (044) 456 0718

July 31, 2003

INVITATION TO BID NO. CMIPP-OE-01-03

The NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION – Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project, CLSU Compound, Science City of Muñoz, invites all pre-qualified SUPPLIERS/DEALERS to submit bids for the supply and delivery of various Office Equipment (Computer Desktop and Server) under Purchase Request Nos. 111-03 and 881-03 with a total approved budget of P642,750.00.

P.R. NO.	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	EST. COST. (P)	DELIVERY POINT
1. 111-03	Computer Desktop, Compac Evo; Intel Pentium 4; 2.4 Ghz.; complete w/ accessories	P 90,000.00	NIA, CLSU Compound Science City of Muñoz
2. 881-03	Unit Server, Compac Proliant ML 370 G3 or equiv. Complete w/ accessories; 5-units Switch, 24 port 10/100 MBPS; 5-units UPS, 350 VA; 1-unit Smart-UPS 1000VA w/ power mgt. Software and cable; 1-unit ProConnect CPU KVM switch, 4 ports w/ cabling kit	552,750.00	NIA, Central Office EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
	TOTAL	P 642,750.00	

Issuance of Bid Forms to interested parties shall be from August 05-13, 2003.

Sealed Bids in **DUPLICATE** forms accompanied by a Bidders Bond in the form of CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR MANAGER'S CHECK ONLY and equivalent to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total approved Purchase Request budget shall be dropped in the Bid Box for Goods/Supplies and Services at the office of the Project Manager not later than 12:00 NN of August 14, 2003 and will be publicly opened at 1:00 PM of the same date at NIA-CMIPP Conference Hall

The NIA-CMIPP/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect found therein and to accept the offer most beneficial to the government. The decision of the BAC in the evaluation of bids is final

All inquiries pertaining to this Invitation to Bid may be directed to the above mentioned Office

(Sgd.) **SERAFIN A. PALTENG**
Project Manager

(PDI – Aug. 2 & 5, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Tuguegarao
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAGAYAN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cagayan (PGC) through the Prequalifications, Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology Resources (PBAC-ITR) hereby invites interested ICT companies and/or systems integrators to pre-qualify and submit sealed bid proposals for the expansion of its Interdepartmental Local Area Network for current Calendar Year 2003, which shall include, among others, the following:

- Active components (i.e. servers, workstations, switches, etc.)
- LAN Cabling and rough-ins;
- Software, and
- Trainings

Interested bidders are required to submit letter of intent and to pre-qualify before securing bid documents. For details of the pre-qualification document and related information, contact telephone number (078) 844-1330 (PPDO).

Bid documents can be obtained at the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan starting *August 18, 2003* upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). Only pre-qualified eligible bidders shall be allowed to obtain bid documents. Issuance will be closed one (1) day before the opening of sealed bids.

A pre-bid conference for eligible bidders will be held on *August 22, 2003* at 1:00 o' clock in the afternoon at the Kammaranan Hall, Capitol Hills, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. Submission of sealed bid proposals will be allowed up to 12:00 o'clock Noon of the date of the opening of sealed bid proposals. Late bid proposals will be rejected. All sealed bid proposals must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 2.5% of the total bid price. Opening of sealed bid proposals shall be on *September 08, 2003* at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the same venue.

The Provincial Government of Cagayan reserves all the rights to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or technicality, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Provincial Government of Cagayan

The Provincial Government assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder(s) for expenses or losses they may incur in connection to this bidding

(Sgd.) **EDGAR RAMONES LARA**
Governor

(PDI–July 26 & Aug. 2, 2003)

AN IMPORTER URGENTLY NEEDS THE FF:

A. ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

M/F, 40 y/o below, coll. grad. of any busines course, at least 3 years sales & marketing experience in the automotive and motorcycle tyre industry, excellent communication skills & willing to travel extensively nationwide, computer literate.

B. MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

M/F, 35 y/o below, coll. grad. of any business course, at least 2 years experience in the tire industry & willing to travel.

Please send resumé with 2x2 photo & transcript to:

21, 5th St., New Manila, Quezon City
Tel: 724-1798; 724-1805

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

1999 Toyota Corolla 1.3/WCR-400
1997 Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi/MDT-888
1997 Toyota Hi-Lux Dsl./UTS-865
1999 Suzuki Motorcycle/TG-4160

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño Tel. # 878-5457

Send your resumé instantly.
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **DRAGON FIRST CONSOLIDATED INC.**, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Belize, with its office address located at Cititrust International Ltd. of 35 Barrack Road, Belize City, Belize, Central America, is currently undertaking due diligence and discussion with Clark Development Corporation (CDC) on a project in the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ). Dragon First Consolidated Inc. is **NOT** currently entering into contracts or accreditation of Contractors/Subcontractors for the project that it is planning to undertake in CSEZ. Any representation by any individual, person or corporation that it is accrediting Contractor/Subcontractor for its project in CSEZ **WAS NOT AND IS NOT** authorized by Dragon First Consolidated Inc.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase* by way of sealed bids on as *"As-Is - Where Is"* basis, the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/TERMS
I.	FIRST TENDER		
001	6,375.30 sq m commercial property	East Triangle, EDSA, Quezon City	PhP40,500/sq m or PhP258,189,650.00 CASH basis or 10% deposit, balance payable in 6 months, without interest
002	863.57 sq m. commercial property With TCT	Felix Avenue, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP13,750.00/sq m or PhP11,874,087.00 CASH/Staggered, CASH of 6 months/ Installment up to 10 yrs.
II.	SECOND TENDER		
003	5,105.0 sq m. commercial property, With TCT	Lapu-lapu Avenue corners Ayungin & Babanse Sts., Dagat-dagatan Project	PhP12,000/sq m PhP61,260,000.00; CASH/ Staggered, CASH of 6 months/ Installment up to 10 years
004	17 hectare rawland property, Relatively flat terrain, Irregular in shape with no existing R-O-W; With TCT	250 meters from McArthur Highway Brgy. Burot, Tarlac City	PhP38.148 Million CASH basis

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED), Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Bldg. and the NHA-Tarlac Project Disposition Committee c/o Northern & Central Luzon (NCL) Management Office, NHA-Annex Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. For inquiry, please contact the following persons. For Tarlac property: Engr. Feliciano F. Lazarte, Jr., Department Manager, NCL Management Office at the following Tel. Nos. of NCL: (02) 922-3325, (02) 923-0397 & (02) 926-4562 local 511 to 513. For all other properties: Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms. Neri A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-1002, (02) 928-4561 local 302 & 303.

SCHEDULE		TARLAC	OTHER PROPERTIES
A	Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	July 30 to Aug. 8, 2003 Office Hours, NCL, NHA-Annex Bldg. Elliptical Road, Q.C.	July 30 to Aug. 11, 2003 Office Hours, CIED, 2nd Flr., NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Q.C.
B.	Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 5, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Main Bldg.	Aug. 6, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Main Bldg.
C	Submission of Sealed Bids	Aug. 12, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 12 nn Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Aug. 11, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 12 nn Operations Center, 3rd Floor
D	Opening of Sealed Bids	Aug. 12, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Aug. 11, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager

(PDI - July 28 & Aug. 2, 2003)

DISPOSAL SALE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office furniture/equipment, prosthetics equipment, two (2) units 1989 Mitsubishi Pajero, 4-door, 4x4, manual transmission and two (2) units 1991 & 1992 Mitsubishi Galant, Super Saloon, automatic transmission on an **"AS IS-WHERE IS"** basis.

Properties can be inspected at the USDVA/Outpatient Clinic (back lot area), 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City on August 4-5, 2003 from 9:00-11:00 am and 1:00-3:00 pm. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be receive by the USDVA Outpatient Clinic Cashier during the sale.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Manuel Fidel C. Holandez or Ms. Emy C. Santos at Tel. Nos. 833-4566 to 69 ext. 8205/8206.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
METRO MANILA
Welfareville Compound, Bgy. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City
Sentrong Sigla

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
CHD-MM BAC-ITB NO. 2003-02

The Department of Health Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply/provision of the following, chargeable against GOP funds.

1. **Drugs & Medicines**
2. **Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies**
3. **Security Services**

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers/distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committees for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies and Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Ms. Arabella T. Pineda or Ms. Elenita S. Esmero at Bldg. 1 Local Health Assistance Division (LHAD) Office, CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P500.00).

Schedule of Activities for No. 1 and No. 2

a)	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 28-August 8, 2003 (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM) Building 1 LHAD Office
b)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 12-14, 2003 (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) Conference Room 2, Training Bldg.
c)	Pre-bid Conference	August 19, 2003 (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) – Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies August 19, 2003 (1:30 – 4:00 PM) – Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.
d)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	August 28, 2003 (8:00 – 9:00 AM) – Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies Conference Room 1, Training Bldg. August 28, 2003 (9:00 – 10:00 AM) – Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.

Schedule of Activities for No. 3

a)	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 26 - August 8, 2003 (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) Building 1 LHAD Office (Bring original copies of the Firms License (Security Services) for authentication.)
b)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 13, 2003 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) Conference Room 2, Training Bldg.
c)	Pre-bid Conference	August 20, 2003 (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.
d)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	September 3, 2003 (9:00 AM – 10:00 AM) Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.

For further information contact the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) secretariat c/o Ms. Arabella T. Pineda at tel. no. 535-4529 (Drugs & Medicines and Security Services), or Ms. Elenita S. Esmero at tel. nos. 535-4521 or 718-3097 (Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) **GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III**
Director IV CHD-MM

(PDI – July 26 & August 2, 2003)

Bidding for F & B Concessions

Alabang Country Club, Inc. will bid out all F & B outlets. Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification forms from the office of the General Manager.

FACTS

1. ACCI will undertake a 3-year rehabilitation program of its main Clubhouse with an outlay of P70 million.
2. Due to pressing demand for new badminton courts, a P10 million structure will be added to the racquet sports complex.
3. In order to improve F & B services, the club is spending P8 million to completely renovate the main kitchen, from walk-in freezers to drainage and ventilation. Completion is expected on August 31, 2003.
4. Locker Rooms for Men and Ladies are undergoing renovation.

STATISTIC

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the year 2002 Php 50.4 million.

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the 5 months in 2003 Php 20.3 million.

SCHEDULE

Pre-qualification Forms Availability : Starting August 01, 2003
Submission of Pre-qualification Papers : August 22, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference : August 29, 2003
Submission of Bids : September 05, 2003

Bidders may bid only for F & B outlets within their range of financial and organizational resources.

For particulars, please call up the office of the General Manager at Tel. Nos. 842-3530 local 160 or 807-0335.

(PDI – July 30, 31 & August 1 & 2, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission invites bonafide bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Canteen Concessionaire** at SEC Main Office, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Bid documents may be secured at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. For further inquiries please call at Tel. no. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be held on:

Date	August 14, 2003
Time	10:00 A.M.
Place	MRD Conference Room, 6th floor, SEC Building

Eligible Bidders shall submit their bids in two (2) separate sealed envelopes, the first containing the Eligibility Requirements and the other containing the bid form and proposed design/plan for the canteen. All documents originating from other government agencies should be **Authenticated/Certified True Copies.**

The envelopes must be sealed, properly labeled, signed or stamped across the envelope flap.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on

Date	August 29, 2003
Time	5:00 PM
Place	General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building
To Whom	Mr. Norlan M. De las Alas, BAC Secretariat

Bid submitted after said date/time will no longer accepted

Bid Security in the form of Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check, Bank guarantee or Surety bond shall accompany the sealed bids. Otherwise, the bid is automatically disqualified.

All particular relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provision of Republic Act No. 9184, and/or Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Aug. 2 & 9, 2003)

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MILAGROS (AGING) CLAVANO PARAISO

of Negros Oriental and
CAA Housing Area, Pasay City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on July 26, 2003
at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles
California, USA at the age of 82.

Her bereaved husband **Augusto Sr.** (†); children and in-laws; **Mila, Augusto Jr.** and **Robin** (†), **Juan** and **Cynthia, Carmencita** and **Francisco Zulueta, Miguel** and **Norma, Adolfo** and **Rosario** and grandchildren, **Marie Jeannette & Eugene, Ma. Teresa & Emon, Eduardo & Maggue, Edgardo & Larissa, Juan Miguel, Augusto, Michael & Shirley, Christopher & Tricie, Ma. Cristina, Ramon & Lea, Veronica, Ariston, Ma. Celeste & Tim, Vanessa, Katrina,** and great grandchildren, **John, Sean, Anya, Joshua, Jacob, Jazz, Jack, Enzo, Micaela, Dominic, Tyler** and **Liliana**, brothers and sisters, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will arrive on Saturday, August 2, 2003 and will lie in state at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat.

JOSE M. DAYAO

Died on August 1, 2003 at the age of 70.

His loving wife **Celia**; son **Joey** and daughter-in-law **Janet**; brothers **Ben** (†) & **Patrick**; sisters **Lucy, Lillian** (†), **Consuelo**, and **Virginia**; sisters & brothers-in-law **Sylvia, Pura, Elsa** (†), **Teddy, Ben**, and **Ting** (†); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Barcelona Chapel, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat. Cremation will be on August 5, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

[illegible] one, Lord make me sec[illegible]
Psalm 4:9

Manuel A. Bayangos

[illegible]sts in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord
August 1, 2003 at the age of 7[illegible]

His children Elsen and Sammy, Manolito and Tess, Ellen and Yasumi, Mike, Jun and Rowena and Matt and Mariz; and grandchildren Gen, JP, Earl, Samantha, Tina, Tricia, Paolo, Carlo, and Pia; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Gabriel Hall, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish Church, Bougainville cor. Sampaguita Sts. Sun Valley Subd., Parañaque City

Cremation to be announced later

In lieu of flowers, [illegible] for Mass and Prayer Cards

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

ANGELES JAVIER DEALINO

of Malate, Manila

Died on July 31, 2003 at the age of 91.

Her beloved husband **MAXIMO SR.** (†); brother **ALFONSO** (†); sister **FRANCISCA LAMOSTE** (†), **DOLORES ORCA** (†), **SR. M. FE, OSB**; son **MAXIMO JR.**; daughters **MELY & BOBBY CARREON, CORY & RAMON CESPEDES**; grandchildren **RICKY & JOY, JUNY & KAREN, IAN, ROWENA & NADJA**; great grandchildren **RICA JOYCE & RICHARD JOHN**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence, #73 F. Manalo St., Cubao, Quezon City.

For interment schedule you may call at 413-2104.

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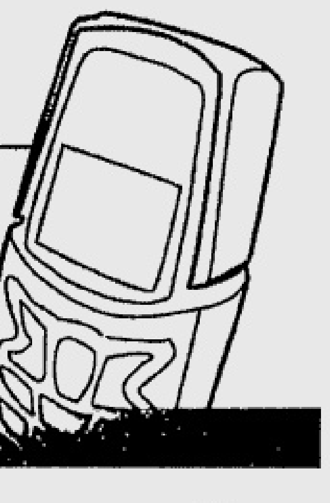

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Interested bidders must secure the Eligibility Requirements from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City starting August 4 to 18, 2003. To cover the cost of the Request for Proposals (RFP), the eligible bidders shall be required to pay a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491. The deadline for the submission of eligibility documents is on August 22, 2003.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - Aug. 2, 2003)

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GuBAT Learning Center opens in Subic

STUDENTS and tourists could now enjoy bat watching better with the opening of the GuBAT Learning Center on August 2, 2003. Right in the heart of the Subic Freeport Zone, on the edges of the Subic-Bataan Forests, Haribon Foundation, together with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the US Peace Corps, has set out the development of a 110 square meter facility that would aid in the interpretation of the beauty of bats and their importance to the forests.

The facility is established to educate, motivate, and empower people in understanding, enjoying, and protecting the environment. The GuBAT Learning Center is a venue for people to visit while viewing the bats in their natural habitat and provide visitors state-of-the-art displays highlighting the fruit bats' role within the forest ecosystem.

Year in and year out, millions of tourists troop to the Bat Roosting Area which is one of the main attractions of the Subic Freeport Zone. It is home to the Golden Crowned Flying Fox, claimed to be the largest bat in the world, and the Large Flying Fox.

With the opening of the GuBAT Learning Center, Haribon Foundation, SBMA and the US Peace Corps will endeavor to have continuous improvements on the facility to update and upgrade it. The foundation seeks the support of various sector and individuals in this worthy cause that will prove to be an invaluable contribution to helping educate the general public on the importance of preserving and protecting our environment.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

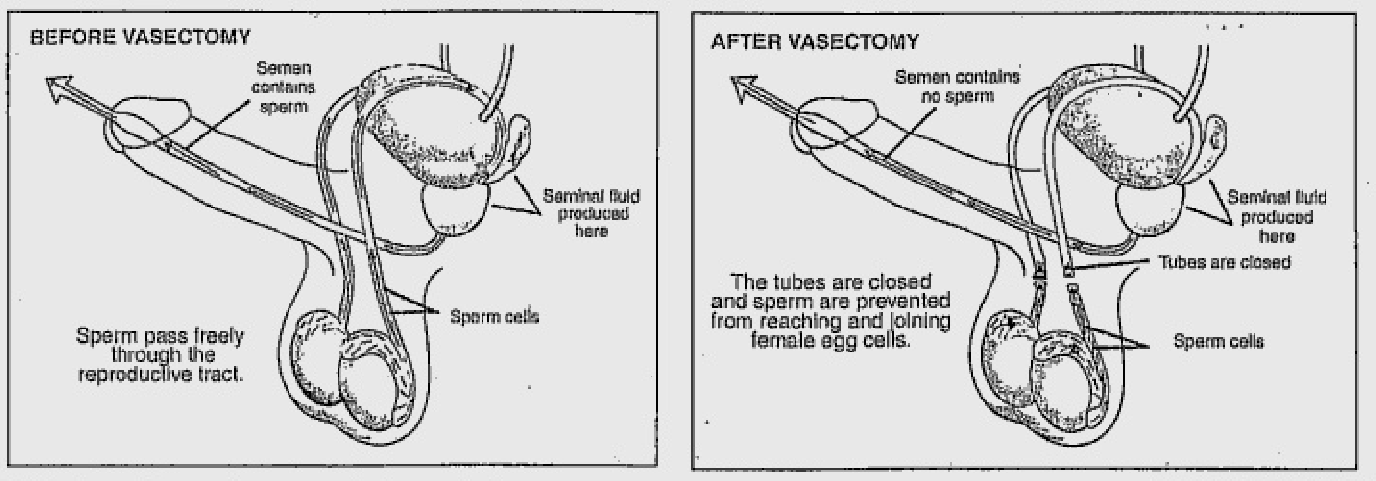
E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

NO-SCALPEL VASECTOMY

Getting men involved in family planning

By Charles E. Buban


BEFORE VASECTOMY
Semen contains sperm
Seminal fluid produced here
Sperm cells
Sperm pass freely through the reproductive tract.
AFTER VASECTOMY
Semen contains no sperm
Seminal fluid produced here
Tubes are closed
The tubes are closed and sperm are prevented from reaching and joining female egg cells.
Sperm cells

KEY points of the male anatomy, before and after vasectomy.

INFOGRAPHICS: STEPH BRAVO

FOR MANY years, family planning program planners have focused their attention largely on women's attitude and behaviors in matters concerning reproduction. The men were basically ignored.

But lately there is growing awareness that issues of family planning and gender equality requires male participation, too.

"We also want to underscore the need to create awareness among males about reproductive health to ensure effective implementation of family planning programs," said Dr. Jose Rodriquez of the Management Sciences for Health.

The MSH, a private, nonprofit educational and scientific organization, assists the Department of Health through programs that strengthen the capabilities of local government units to plan, monitor and implement sustainable family planning and maternal and child health services.

NSV for T'bolis

Recently, the MSH went to South Cotabato to perform vasectomy among T'boli tribesmen.

The area, like most of the places MSH will be going to, has a high population growth rate but is not easily accessed by population control programs.

The tribesmen who participated in the program had an average of eight children. Some had as many as 15 children.

"We introduced a refined approach in vasectomy procedure—known as No-Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV)—which is much simpler, safer, with less complications but just as effective," Rodriguez said.

Gaining popularity

The NSV was developed in China in 1974 by Dr. Li Shunqiang of the Chongqing Family Planning Scientific Research Institute. Since then, nearly 20 million men in China and over one million men in North America have undergone NSV.

"It was only recently that NSV gained popularity although this procedure was already known here since the mid-'80s," said Rodriguez.

Since the MHS started its NSV missions in the country last year, Rodriguez said more than 3,000 males in more than 150 municipalities have availed of the procedure.

During the MSH's recent mission to the T'boli town, 90 tribesmen, aged 20 to 44, showed up. A first mission, conducted five months ago, gathered almost the same number of male clients; a second mission gathered 26 T'boli tribesmen.

"Since NSV, like the traditional vasectomy is considered a permanent option, one has to be absolutely sure he doesn't want to father a child anymore under any circumstances," said Rodriguez. "This is why counseling is important before undergoing this procedure."

Difference from vasectomy

The NSV is different from traditional vasectomy in the way the doctor gets to the tubes, called the vas, which is a means to transport sperm from the testes.

In traditional vasectomy, the doctor, after applying local anesthesia on the scrotum, makes one or two small cuts in the skin and lifts out each tube. He then cuts and blocks them so the sperm cannot reach the semen. Then the doctor stitches the cuts close.

In NSV, the doctor feels for the tubes under the skin and holds them in place with a small clamp.

But instead of two incisions, the doctor makes only one tiny puncture using a special instrument and gently stretches the opening so the tubes can be reached. The tubes are then blocked using the same methods as traditional vasectomy.

Rodriguez said there is very little bleeding with the NSV technique and no stitches are needed to close the tiny opening, which heals quickly.

Less complications

Rodriguez said that based on his experience in administering the NSV, the most common post-operation complaints include hematoma, swelling and pain which usually subside within one to two weeks.

But Rodriguez said sterility is not immediately achieved as some active sperm may still remain in the system for two to three months. One has to see his doctor after the procedure to test if his semen is already free of sperm.

A couple should use other forms of family planning until the doctor says the male's semen is sperm-free.

High growth rate

According to the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, the country has one of the highest population growth rates in Asia—2.3 percent annually. Its average population density is nearly double the Southeast Asian average and is exceeded only by that of Singapore.

The FPOP said that with more information and encouragement, more men would be able to play positive roles in reproductive health.

The NSV is one surgical procedure that experts hope will become acceptable among males as means of contraception.

"It is as effective as the traditional vasectomy method and there is much less chance (less than one percent) that a man's partner will become pregnant," said Rodriguez.

Chemistry whiz

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE NOTION that hard work breeds success is so trite that people often take it for granted. However, that does not make it any less true. My colleague Dr. Arman Guidote sent me this tale of "The Blue Captain," written by Ateneo de Manila chemistry major Alice Abuzo:

When you walk down the halls of your school, you would probably meet some skinny kid with oversized glasses that he would most likely keep on pushing up the bridge of his nose. The next thing that almost predictably comes to mind is: here is one person who could be the next Bill Gates. It's almost cliché.

Bienvenido Alvarez Santos, or Bien, is one of those that we meet and know, as early as grade school, that would be the perennial smart kid. Yes, he was a skinny kid with glasses (with long hair during his college days). Graduating valedictorian from grade school and high school, and magna cum laude from college, it would not be surprising if his classmate finds himself sitting in a café when a friend suddenly and theatrically announces, "Omigod! Bien found a way to isolate large molecules from."

Well, he has not done that, yet. But he's close to where he always imagined he would be.

Small, determined steps

Born into a poor family, Bien was not one who had everything cut out for him. But his mind proved to be the key to achieving his goals.

Like every kid, he dreamed of enjoying professional and financial success, and settling down with a family of his own. A select few find their way to the top in one quick step. But for everyone else, including him, big dreams always start from small, determined steps.

With his brilliant mind and the determination to succeed in each step he made, he was able to maintain his position ahead of his class in the race for honors all the way through high school. He graduated valedictorian from Caniogan Elementary School and from Pasig Catholic College (High School). He was awarded a college scholarship by the then National Science Development Board.

Unlike most of his peers, he was one of the few who were interested in the sciences, particularly chemistry, and was choosing between taking up Chemical Engineering at UP Diliman and Chemistry at the Ateneo de Manila University. Eventually, an added scholarship from Ateneo won him over.

Days of disquiet

It would be unjust to say that he buried himself under a ton of books morning, noon and night, every day. Besides, it's hard to imagine anyone succumbing only to the call of excellence in the days of Marcos. In a time of unrest and impassioned nationalism, there was a lot more to be passionate about.

He still remembers looking up to then Student Council president Ed Jopson, and being inspired to join student demonstrations.

He still found time to goof around, though. If he was not playing handball with Fr. Ting Samson, S.J. (now president of Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro), he was with his friends scheming their next adventure. Yes, he and his friends were the pioneers of the "sport" of exploding helium balloons in the laboratory and probably other feats that we've only heard about.

But being smart made him get away with some blunders along the way. Once, he copied his buddy's homework for Spanish, something that he probably did only once. So his professor mistakenly assumed that his buddy copied from him, and sent them out, calling him *el capitan* and his buddy *el sargento*. Little did the professor know that his words would prove to be an unexpected glimpse of the future. For whether he planned it or not, Bien was destined to lead.

Aside from graduating magna cum laude, Bien received the Chemistry Award in 1972, and placed second in the Chemistry Board Exams in 1973. After college, he proceeded to take an MS Chemistry degree. He originally planned to finish a master's degree and find a well-paying job in industry, but an ad from Procter & Gamble was the detour sign that plucked him early out of graduate school.

Creating new products

He's currently a section head in Product Development for North America Fabric Conditioners, based in Cincinnati, Ohio. Product Development oversees the innovation work to create new products or improve existing ones that can form the basis of continued company growth. They identify new consumer needs and then develop new technology and products that best meet these needs.

His work has allowed him to do extensive traveling to different parts of the world. Through this, he was also able to know and experience a diversity of cultures. He was based in India from 1989 to 1991. After that, he was assigned in the US, and has stayed there since.

He works from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Despite the fixed schedule and the demands of his job, he is still able to spend his free time with his family.

Family man

In the midst of the frenzy of his work, his family is his solid anchor. Bien proudly declares that he draws his inspiration and drive from his family. He and his lovely wife, Resurreccion, live in the US, where they also built their home.

He met his wife in the Philippines, while she was working for Procter & Gamble, and they married in 1979. Their eldest daughter, Katherine, graduated from Harvard University with a BS Chemistry degree and has plans of going to medical school. Christine, their second child, is a junior BS Chemical Engineering student at Stanford University, California. Their youngest, Michael, is still a freshman at Sycamore High School.

Looking back on his life, it's not really the awards but the effort he made to be the best that got him where he is right now. It's about making everything count. About doing the best that you can in whatever you do, whether it's taking that everyday quiz, making explosions in the lab, screaming in rallies, brewing your coffee, trembling during your oral exams, or balancing a book in your head.

Our *el capitan* has gone a long way. He has steered his life into the direction that he may not have intended, but has led him to his goals just the same. Years older and 60 pounds heavier, he is still pretty much the same as he extends his fatherly message to those who would listen:

"College is the best and the most crucial part of your life. Enjoy these days (those friendships, parties, fun times) but also invest in your future by working and studying hard. You don't want to look back 20 years hence and have any regrets that you didn't give it your best shot (if only I had studied a little harder). What you do now sets you up for your future."

Aye, aye sir!

Stain-free

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

A FRIEND of mine and his girlfriend were sitting by a river during a camping trip. He was pointing out various rock formations in the area and she was admiring them.

Suddenly he pulled out a ring and asked, "What about this rock?"

She turned her head and found him holding a ring with a diamond, not quite big enough to rival J.Lo's but sizable enough.

She said yes, of course, and then spent the next hour pouting because they're out of cell phone range and she can't tell anyone that she's engaged.

Aside from the fact that I'm a sucker for extremely creative marriage proposals, the reason I am bringing up this story is that researchers have recently announced that they have found a way to identify the mine where a diamond came from.

This would fall under the category of fascinating yet impractical information were it not for the fact that knowing a diamond's origin could one day help end the sale of blood diamonds.

Diamond's 'fingerprint'

What exactly is a blood diamond? Blood, or conflict, diamonds are stones which come from war-torn nations where rebel factions use proceeds from the sale of the diamonds to continue their fight against the internationally recognized government. The three most known examples of these countries are Sierra Leone, Angola and Liberia, which is probably the most recognizable name at the moment.

Diamond exports have been banned from all three nations since 2000, but the gems still manage to get smuggled out, and once the uncut stones are polished, they are extremely difficult to trace.

This is where researchers from the University of Ghent and the Diamond High Council, which is based in Antwerp, come in.

The Belgians realized that they could take a diamond's chemical "fingerprint" by cutting a small hole into it with a laser. Since each diamond mine has a different composition of minerals, the theory is that they would be able to compare the diamond's composition with that of various mines and make a match.

This, of course, involves having samples from every diamond mine in the world, and unfortunately the researchers haven't gotten that far yet. So far they've been able to identify diamonds from Russia, South Africa and Canada, all of which are part of the 60-odd nations (of which the Philippines is one) who support the Kimberley Process of certifying any diamond imported, exported or merely passing through the area as being a non-conflict diamond.

Maybe in a few years they can fingerprint every diamond as quickly as they process crime scenes.

The Kimberley Process was actually supposed to take effect just two days ago, although whether or not it really happened is worth checking. After all, is the rock on your finger really worth the lives of millions?

To quote Martin Chungong-Ayafor, one of the UN delegates sent to verify that sanctions had been imposed against nations involved in the illegal trade of blood diamonds and the chair of the Sierra Leone panel of experts: "'Diamonds are forever,' it is often said. But lives are not. We must spare people the ordeal of war, mutilations and death for the sake of conflict diamonds."

Keeping clothes white

Having learned how to keep our conscience clean, we now turn to the more mundane problem of keeping one's own clothes clean, especially when commuting while wearing an all-white outfit.

The answer to this problem is stain-free clothing, now sold under brand names such as Lee, GAP and Eddie Bauer. While these companies have pants in the market at the moment, there are plans to expand into the shirt and jacket lines as well.

The secret to these oil and water-repellent materials is nanotechnology, generally known as the science of working on improving various everyday products on a molecular level to raise our quality of life. We want stuff to be smaller, more portable and more resistant to dirt. The latter is where stain-free pants come in.

Here's how it works: you know those detergent ads where tiny little granules insert themselves into clothing fibers to make sure everything gets cleaned? Imagine that the little particles are tiny hairs that stick through the fibers and repel any liquid heading their way.

Don't worry though, these are not clothes that have to be dry-cleaned because the hairs eventually give in if there's too much liquid. And you won't ever have to worry about having someone spill their drink on you in a crowded bar ever again.

Isn't science wonderful?

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

The psychology of a rebellion

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

THE FEW hundred young military officers and enlisted men who staged a mutiny last weekend were armed not so much with military hardware or a well-calibrated coup plan but more with sheer idealism and a fatalistic attitude that they had to do what they felt they had to do, and Divine Providence and history will take care of the rest.

The rebel soldiers were set to stage a war, which was essentially a war of minds and beliefs, of conflicting convictions and profoundly rooted emotions.

The young military officers were pictures of gentlemen whose personalities underwent a sudden agitated transformation that only a psychologically toxic dose of emotions could concoct.

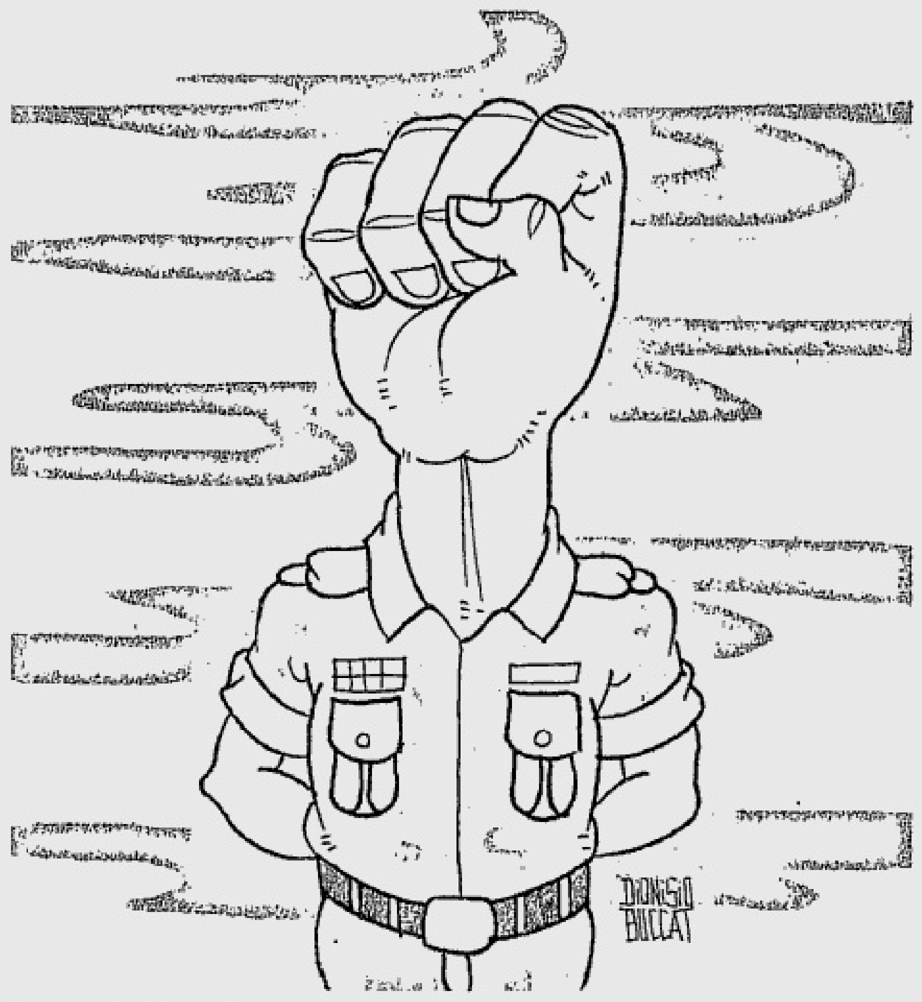
The coup leaders could have been any parent's favorite sons-in-law, worthy of all the adulation and praise they may get for their valor and self-sacrifice. The scenario, however, in last Sunday's failed coup was anything close to an objective and well-guided display of patriotism that would lead to a meaningful outcome.

Unwittingly, the military rebels who anchored their radical action on a lofty cause adopted the terrorists' preferred medium, which is anarchy or chaos. They erred in their conviction that bloodshed was necessary to solve the infirmities of a capitalist and democratic institution.

Their principles and philosophy would have tolerated more a benevolent and honest dictatorship rather than a democracy wherein graft and corruption are seemingly accepted norms and can coexist with religion and high education.

As the circumstances indicated, the decision to stage a rebellion was not instantaneous. It had probably taken the mutineers months to plan, and the mental gestation must have involved a cascade of psychological processes, with their thoughts and emotions swinging from one end to the other.

In the end, the emotional pendulum could only be resolved by its expression, in whatever form it may take, no matter how bereft in rationality it might have.



Evolution of rebellion

Group dynamics play a critical role in the evolution of a rebellion. An individual, no matter how disgruntled he may be, can never muster enough guts to express his emotions by himself. But once the number of disgruntled people sharing similar sentiments achieves a critical mass, the resulting energy can be extremely potent and dangerous depending on the direction set by the group's leaders or role models.

In the frequently quoted experiments of psychologist Solomon Asch, there is some convincing evidence to prove that groups are much more likely to rebel than individuals.

In one of his experiments, Asch had shown that if a second person dissented from the group opinion, he was more likely to express his dissension than if he were the only one who disagreed. The bigger the number of people who dissented, the more intense the expression of disagreement was.

Asch's experiments, validated by actual situations many times over, postulate that a group of people would offer more resistance than just one subject. Separate the subjects in the dissenting group and the resistance dissipates and dies down. Reassemble the group, and the dissension builds up again.

However, once a critical mass is attained, a rebellion would be like the mythical Hydra which grew two heads every time one was cut off. A rebellion might appear quelled at one point, only to spring back again with heightened passion and vigor as the remaining remnants reconsolidate, attract more adherents to their cause and restage another rebellion.

Unjust authority

A scientific paper ("Encounters with Unjust Authority") published by psychologists Gamson, Fireman and Rytina in 1982 showed a considerable amount of insight on the evolution of a group rebellion.

In their experiment, 16 in 33 groups totally refused to do what was expected of them and in a further nine groups the majority of the members refused to obey what was perceived as an unjust order by assigned authorities.

A consistent finding in the dissenting groups was that group dissension was started initially by one or two members who became the group's role models and who eventually convinced the rest of the group—including the ones who had originally agreed to obey the order—to dissent and disregard the order given them.

The experiment of Gamson's group appears to show two important factors at work in the development of rebellion: defining the situation and conformity.

Free interaction

The subjects in Gamson's study were given plenty of free time where they interacted freely and discussed the the order given them.

The study revealed that total rejection was highest in groups where disagreement was originally high. In some groups there were people who already had been previously active in various kinds of protests and strikes. Such people served as de facto leaders and role models for the others.

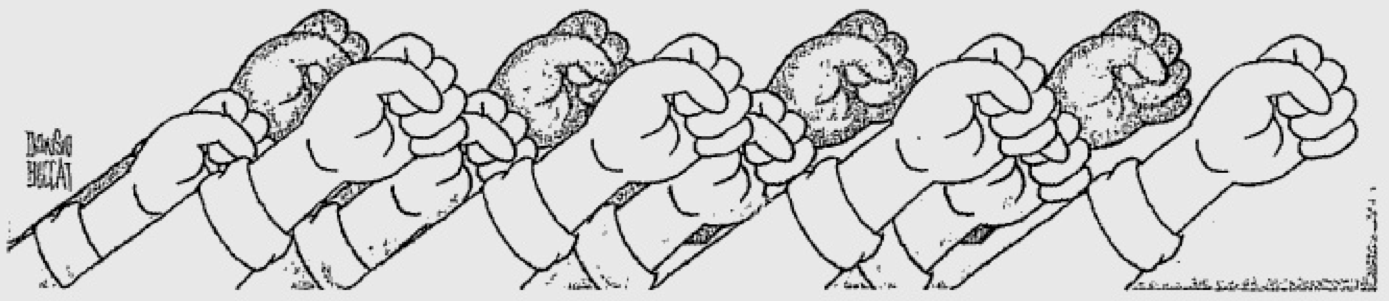
The study also documented the reality of group dynamics when the members perceive a strong legitimate issue confronting them. It highlights the natural tendency for members to stand up and be counted when a group consensus is building up.

The researchers observed that many members initially appeared passive and uncertain, waiting to see what others would do, delaying their own decision for as long as possible. In the end, loyalty to the group became an overriding factor in their decision.

Some group members who already obeyed their superior's orders reversed their positions when they realized that the rest of the group was not obeying.

To some people, the young officers' idealism in the failed coup bordered on something akin to religious fanaticism. Idealism, when intense like religious fanaticism, does not fear death. Idealism breeds martyrs; and when idealists are misguided, this can be dangerous because martyrs breed more martyrs who may all be sacrificing their lives for a wrong cause or wrong means to a lofty cause.

Unless the government can give these idealists something to live for rather than to die for, the same type of rebellion, probably in different scenarios, will be repeated over and over again.



12 reasons to drink glasses of water daily

DIONISIO BUCCAT

YOU'VE probably heard this: Adults now need to drink not eight, but 12 glasses of water daily, to keep properly hydrated and stay healthy. Indeed, water is a precious, life-giving element essential for your survival and wellness, enabling your body to function normally.

Why is water so important to your health and well-being? Here are 12 reasons that will encourage you to drink proper amounts of water each day:

1 Cellular activity happens only in the presence of H_2O. Moreover, water transports necessary substances like nutrients and hormones to your vital organs. Thus, constant replenishment is a must, since your bodily functions rely heavily on the efficient flow of water in your system.

2 Water is essential to the disposal of body wastes and other harmful substances. Aside from facilitating bowel movement, water likewise facilitates the elimination of toxins via urination and perspiration.

3 Water gives you an energy boost. Replenishing your body's water reserves helps maintain your energy level. When you are properly hydrated, you feel more alert throughout the day.

4 Since the average adult's body is 75 percent water and 25 percent solid matter, it needs to stay hydrated to enable the cells to function normally. Not only will your body function best, it will also be protected from health problems if you stay hydrated adequately.

5 Drinking water has been shown to help relieve dizziness, migraine headaches and more serious conditions such as high blood cholesterol, rheumatoid arthritis pain, allergies and high blood pressure.

6 Your body uses different hormones, enzymes and neurotransmitters to complete the digestion process. Without ample water intake, the pancreas is less efficient, acids in the stomach are not properly neutralized, and the functions of the intestines are inhibited. Over an extended period of time, not drinking enough water can be a factor contributing to constipation, colitis pain, false appendicitis pain and even hiatus hernia.

7 Water can help you lose weight, as it aids digestion and helps prevent overeating. The sensations of thirst and hunger are generated simultaneously to signal your body's needs. If you are not getting enough water, you will likely eat more to satisfy your need for water. When you feel hungry, try drinking a few glasses of water first. You may not be as hungry as you think.

8 Water is known for its cleansing and purifying properties. By ensuring that you always drink enough water, your skin will gradually turn softer and suppler, giving it a healthier look and feel. Plus, water will make your hair shine like no shampoo can.

9 Since your brain tissue is 85 percent water, its functions rely heavily on an ample water supply. In fact, studies show that with prolonged dehydration, brain cells actually begin to shrink. Maybe you're not really getting old and forgetful—you just need more water.

10 Choose water over caffeinated drinks anytime, since the water component in soda and other drinks high in caffeine doesn't stay in the body long enough to meet the body's needs. By drinking these diuretics, or substances that lead to elimination of water, you are not actually satisfying your thirst but merely inducing more thirst.

11 Higher temperatures in tropical areas increases perspiration, so you lose more water than if you were in a cooler climate. Therefore, you need lots of water to replenish what you lose, even if you spend most of your time in a well-ventilated room.

12 Drinking water is an ideal source of minerals essential for the metabolic processes that enable your body to maintain itself. Water, especially for older people, helps maintain and repair tissues, and stave off fatigue and illnesses

As the world's largest food company, Nestlé recognizes the increasing importance of drinking water that is not only pure and safe, but healthy as well. The company now offers Nestlé Pure Life, an ideal drinking water for all members of your family.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Salty saliva

I HAD two root-canaled teeth but I still have slight pain when I eat. Also, I'm experiencing a bitter taste especially in the morning. I also noticed that my saliva tastes salty. Is it normal to still feel pain in the teeth even if the nerves are already dead due to the root canal?

—Reynald M.

The slight pain and your salty saliva are indicative of a pus infection. You have those symptoms because the factors that lead to a tooth infection are possibly still not resolved. Maybe there is still bacteria or nerve tissue that needs to be cleaned out. Maybe more medication and more time is needed to resolve the infection. Maybe another X-ray is needed to see if all the nerves were taken out.

Your teeth will need to be root canaled again. I have done a few myself and the pus infection gets resolved by cleaning out the tooth very well and also allowing the pus to drain.

Preschool stress

ATTENDING his very first school brings excitement to your child as he looks forward to meeting new friends and exploring activities he has not tried before. But even preschool can put some strain on him since he needs to wake up earlier than usual. Most often, he misses or skips his breakfast when he rushes to school.

In school, he joins strenuous activities, absorbs new information and mingles with a new group of people. The change in his daily routine and in his eating habits can cause your child to experience stress.

Preschool stress, although not easily visible at first, can affect your child's performance and growth. When he skips his breakfast and eats snacks bought outside and not prepared at home, the amount of nutrients he gets is not enough to meet his active school life, making him weak and sluggish.

But more important, preschool stress can slow down your child's growth making him appear smaller than children of his age.

The good news is: catch-up growth is now possible even when your child is dealing with preschool stress. With regular healthy meals you serve him supplemented with PediaSure, you can help your child cope with stress and meet the normal growth rate.

The first and only clinically proven and tested therapeutic nutritional supplement, PediaSure has a complete and balanced formulation—at 30kcal per fluid ounce—to promote your child's catch-up growth in eight weeks.

PediaSure's delicious vanilla and chocolate flavors make children enjoy taking this highly nutritious drink anytime of the day.

Herbal supplement recognized by doctors

WHAT does it take for a herbal product to succeed in the market, to think that there must still be strong bias against herbals to date?

The experience of Charantia Ampalaya Health Drink in the local and international market attests to the fact that there are herbals which really work and which consumers can rely on—factors that promise market success.

The proven reliability of Charantia, the bitterless tea-like antidiabetic herbal supplement made of 100-percent dried ampalaya fruits and seeds in different respects—whether in terms of scientific validity, cost-effectivity, and as useful complement in the management of diabetes—could be adjudged from the standpoints of different health professionals here and abroad.

For one thing, the herbal supplement's strength lies on the scientifically proven natural blood sugar-lowering potency of the ampalaya or bitter melon's active principles contained in its fruits and seeds.

Medical breakthrough

Said Dr. Rey Salinel Jr., a diabetes specialist who is also a Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) diplomate and fellow: "It is indeed a medical breakthrough in medicine having discovered ampalaya *(Momordica charantia)*, which is just a simple ingredient in our kitchen, as possessing a hypoglycemic effect. Ancient and traditional medicines are here to stay and we are very fortunate that we have ampalaya that is scientifically proven to be of value and beneficial to our millions of diabetic patients."

Studies here and abroad have shown that ampalaya's fruits and seeds contain phytochemicals that increase beta cell production by the pancreas, improving the body's ability to produce insulin to lower blood sugar levels in diabetics.

For diabetics with a tolerance for bitter flavor, an ampalaya fruit's fresh juice has been traditional remedy. Currently, there's a number of ampalaya tea products in the local market, but only Charantia is the only one made of dried ampalaya fruits and seeds made under strict quality standards by the Herbcare Corp. through a special dehydration process that locks in essential properties.

"Charantia Ampalaya Health Drink is the only brand of ampalaya product backed up by medical evidence in a local study as an effective adjunct in the treatment of type 2 diabetes," Dr. Salinel said.

Gaining acceptance

Charantia, since its debut more than two years ago in the local market, has been steadily gaining acceptance from local doctors and diabetic patients as well. It has participated in conventions of various prestigious medical organizations and is being officially endorsed by the Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (Amhop) as cost-effective herbal supplement particularly for mild noninsulin dependents.

Amhop's endorsement is in line with its principle of helping underprivileged sectors of society to take advantage of safe, effective and affordable healthcare. It is because diabetics belonging to these sectors have difficulty meeting the costs of drugs and healthcare needed for effective control of the disease.

"Insofar as diabetes is concerned," said Dr. Guia Abad, Amhop president who's most noted for spearheading the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers. "Amhop has identified, tested and found that Charantia Ampalaya Health Drink is a safe and effective adjunct in diabetes treatment. The product is priced well within the reach of the special sectors Amhop members serve. Amhop believes this product can help its patients in effectively controlling their blood sugar levels."

Charantia, initially available in loose bits and now also offered in tea bags and capsules, has also started to penetrate the United States, African and European markets.

Endorsement

Lord Sir Djamil Fareed, Kt. FRCP—an international health expert who currently serves as adviser to the Minister of Health and Quality of Life in the Republic of Mauritius and member of the World Heart Federation who visited the country recently—has fully endorsed Charantia as helpful complement for the effective management of diabetes.

Lord Fareed underscored the importance of including such potent and affordable herbal product in safely and effectively managing blood-sugar levels of diabetics—that is, as complement to a diabetics' prescribed regimen that should include proper diet, regular exercise and medication.

"There is a lot of evidence to support the benefits of this product in researches carried out by scientists in the United Kingdom, India and the Philippines," he said. "Over and above all this, I consider it relevant to tell you of my own personal assessment of this substance done in a personal capacity over a large number of patients with diabetes mellitus in Mauritius who were followed up both medically and metabolically. No doubt, the glucose-lowering effect of this substance is very prominent."

Innovative contact lenses could treat eye diseases

EYE diseases such as glaucoma could be easier and safer to treat with a new kind of medicated contact lens being developed that could make eye drops obsolete, US-based researchers have said.

Soft contact lenses infused with eye medications provide more reliable drug delivery and could be worn for up to 15 days, according to findings presented by University of Florida researchers during a meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans.

The researchers encased the drugs in tiny particles invisible to the human eye, or nanoparticles, then added them to the gel-like material used to make soft lenses that could also be made to correct vision like regular lenses.

Many eye problems, such as glaucoma or eye infections, are traditionally treated with eye drops. But using drops often requires frequent application, a cumbersome process that can cause inconsistent dosage and waste the medication, the researchers said.

Additionally, medicated drops mix with tear fluid and drain through the nasal cavity, ending up in the bloodstream and increasing the risk of side effects, according to the findings.

"The majority of the drop you're putting in the eye actually ends up in the nose," Anuj Chauhan, assistant professor of chemical engineering who led the research, said. "About 90 to 95 percent of the drug is actually lost."

Medicated lenses could counter that by providing a slow release of the drug to the eye, he said. By eliminating messy drops, the lenses could also encourage patients to be more vigilant about their treatment.

In addition to treating disease, the same process could use antibiotics to create an extended-wear contact lens that would hinder bacterial infections, he said.

Chauhan said researchers are still trying to regulate the rate of drug flow and further studies with different drugs and clinical trials are still needed.

The contacts could be ready for approved mainstream use in about a decade, he said. *Reuters*

Bullying boss makes your blood boil

PARIS—Bosses who are disliked for being unfair or unreasonable can stoke a massive rise in workers' blood pressure, a phenomenon that fuels the risk of a heart attack or stroke,. a study revealed.

Scientists recruited 28 female nursing assistants in British hospitals and monitored their blood pressure every 30 minutes during their working day to see how it changed in the presence of their supervisor.

Thirteen of the 28 had two supervisors, who alternated during their working week—one the workers liked and the other they disliked.

The 15 others were a comparison group: they either had just one supervisor or had two, both of which were liked or disliked.

Those who had to alternate with Ms Nice and Ms Nasty had an astonishing difference in blood pressure, the researchers found.

They registered a 15 mm Hg difference in their systolic blood pressure, and a seven mm Hg difference in diastolic pressure, when they had to work with a supervisor they considered overbearing.

But when they worked under someone they considered fair, they were more relaxed—their blood pressure went down slightly.

Previous studies have found that the increase of 10 mm Hg in systolic and five mm Hg in diastolic blood pressure can lead to a 16-percent increased risk of coronary heart disease and a 38-percent increased risk of stroke.

What is a 'fair' boss?

A "fair" boss was considered as someone who listened to problems, responded to suggestions, praised a job well done, showed trust and respect and was consistent and impartial.

Meanwhile, the comparison group registered only a tiny difference of three millimeters of mercury (Hg) in their systolic pressure, and no difference in diastolic, when working with their two different supervisors.

The study, conducted by doctors at Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College in southern England, is published in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, a publication of the British Medical Association.

Nursing assistants carry out many of the menial jobs in hospitals, such as changing sheets and cleaning bedpans, and are under the supervision of nurses.

They are poorly paid, have low social status, "high levels of reported work stress and poor health," the authors say.

A Finnish study published last October found that people who suffer from stressful demands at work, poor rewards and scant career opportunities are twice as likely to die from heart disease from colleagues who were treated reasonably and given regular rewards. *AFP*

Latest international guidelines cite tiotropium for COPD therapy

THE LATEST international guidelines published by the Global initiative for chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) now include tiotropium alongside other long-acting bronchodilators as first-line maintenance therapy for the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

The novel long-acting anticholinergic tiotropium is a once-daily inhaled therapy which works through prolonged M3-receptor blockade—a unique mode of action in COPD treatment.

COPD is characterized by reduced airflow on expiration due to airway obstruction that is not fully reversible and usually worsens over time. People with COPD suffer breathlessness (known as dyspnea) that can lead to severe disability.

This disabling disease is the fastest growing cause of death among the world's most advanced economies ranking fourth, alongside HIV/AIDS. The World Health Organization estimates that by 2020, COPD will be the third leading cause of death and the fifth leading cause of disability in the world. The predominant cause of COPD is cigarette smoking.

The GOLD guidelines are the most referenced COPD practice guidelines worldwide.

Important new developments in the treatment of COPD have necessitated updating of the guidelines, first published in 2001, to reflect the latest developments in COPD management. Tiotropium is the only new compound to be included in this first guidelines update. Many of the changes relate specifically to this new treatment.

Based on publications that appeared after June 2000, the 2003 GOLD Update concluded that bronchodilator medications are central to the symptomatic management of COPD; regular treatment with long-acting bronchodilators is more effective and convenient than treatment with short-acting bronchodilators, but more expensive; the long-acting anticholinergic tiotropium has a duration of action of more than 24 hours; and there should be a stepwise increase in treatment depending on the severity of disease.

Within the GOLD treatment model, tiotropium is recommended as a first-line maintenance treatment for COPD for all stages of disease severity where maintenance treatment is appropriate.

Other recent published data show tiotropium improves dyspnea, lung function, quality of life, and exercise tolerance and reduces the frequency of exacerbations.

Managing the not-so-sweet life of a diabetic

YOU seem to have lost track of everything after more than eight hours of not taking in any form of food, not even water, in preparing for a test that would change your life forever.

Then the inevitable happens. The doctor confirmed your fears: you are now, officially, a diabetic. At the onset of this seemingly terrifying news, messed-up thoughts razed your mind instantaneously, all leading to just one question: What now? Initially, disbelief clogs your mind, and anger sets in because of the perception that diabetes would threaten your life eternally.

Eventually, depression invades you, sabotaging any rational thought in your mind. Fortunately, wicked thoughts about diabetes disappears in the end and your life would return to normal, but not without numerous trials and tribulations.

And so after all the sleepless nights and anxiety attacks about diabetes, you ask yourself, "what do I do with my diabetes now that I have it?" In short, how do I control it?

Effective management

Dr. Maria Teresa Plata-Que, vice president of the Philippine Diabetes Association, says that the effective management of one's diabetes rests on five very important pillars: diet, exercise, medication, patient education, and home glucose monitoring.

A healthy diabetic diet, according to Dr. Que, is a meal plan consisting of food packed with complex carbohydrates and not simple carbohydrates like soft drinks or those that contain refined sugar. "A high-fiber, low-fat (and mostly polyunsaturated fat), low-cholesterol diet is preferred and taken in proportion to protein and fats," she says. Blood sugar excursions may not be so great if meals are distributed throughout the day and supplemented by snacks in between.

However, sticking to a strict diet program is easier said than done, according to Dr. Plata-Que. "It is here that patient's discipline and self control is severely put to the test, especially when it comes to food and exercise. The determination and will of the patient to effectively manage diabetes will be a key factor to the success of any diabetic diet program," she adds.

Exercise regimen

Dr. Plata-Que also recommends an effective exercise program, whether a 30-minute exercise regimen three times a week, or aerobic type of exercises, which include brisk walking, swimming, cycling, jogging, or maybe rock climbing. She cites a study by Ballor and Keesey back in 1991, which revealed that 10-16 weeks of exercise alone could result to a weight loss of about 0.6 kilograms in women and 1.3 kg for men.

Medication

Some diabetics, however, because of their busy schedule at work or at home, may not be able to pursue an exercise regimen. "Medication can be recommended, but it will depend on the type of diabetes, the duration of the patient's condition and the presence of complications," she reveals.

But drugs also have side effects, and oral antidiabetic medication is no exception. "The most common side effect is hypoglycemia, or the sudden drop in sugar levels in the blood. Others include allergic reactions, gastrointestinal upset and liver toxicity," she says.

Patient education is also important, adds Dr. Plata-Que, for diabetics to learn everything about their condition, like when they are having diabetic attacks, etc. Constant home glucose monitoring helps a diabetic determine if he is successfully controlling his diabetes. It also enables the patient to correlate exercise, food intake, stress and diabetes control.

Diabetics are often told to control their appetites and eat healthy foods. However, the problem often lies in the availability of healthy foods as most menus available in the market are sinful and tempting.

Supplements

It is here that supplements come to mind. At present, there are supplements already available in the market that a diabetic can buy to help put glucose under control and help comply as comfortably as possible with diabetic management, the feared side effects. SR Powder is one such supplement, which is low calorie, low fat and high in fiber content. Glucerna SR Powder is ideally formulated for the diabetic and can help in the achievement of better diabetic control if incorporated into a diabetic meal plan either as meal replacement or snack.

Diabetes is a challenging condition, no doubt about it. The ability to accept it and still be able to lead a fun-filled and healthy proactive lifestyle is the secret to a long life despite diabetes.

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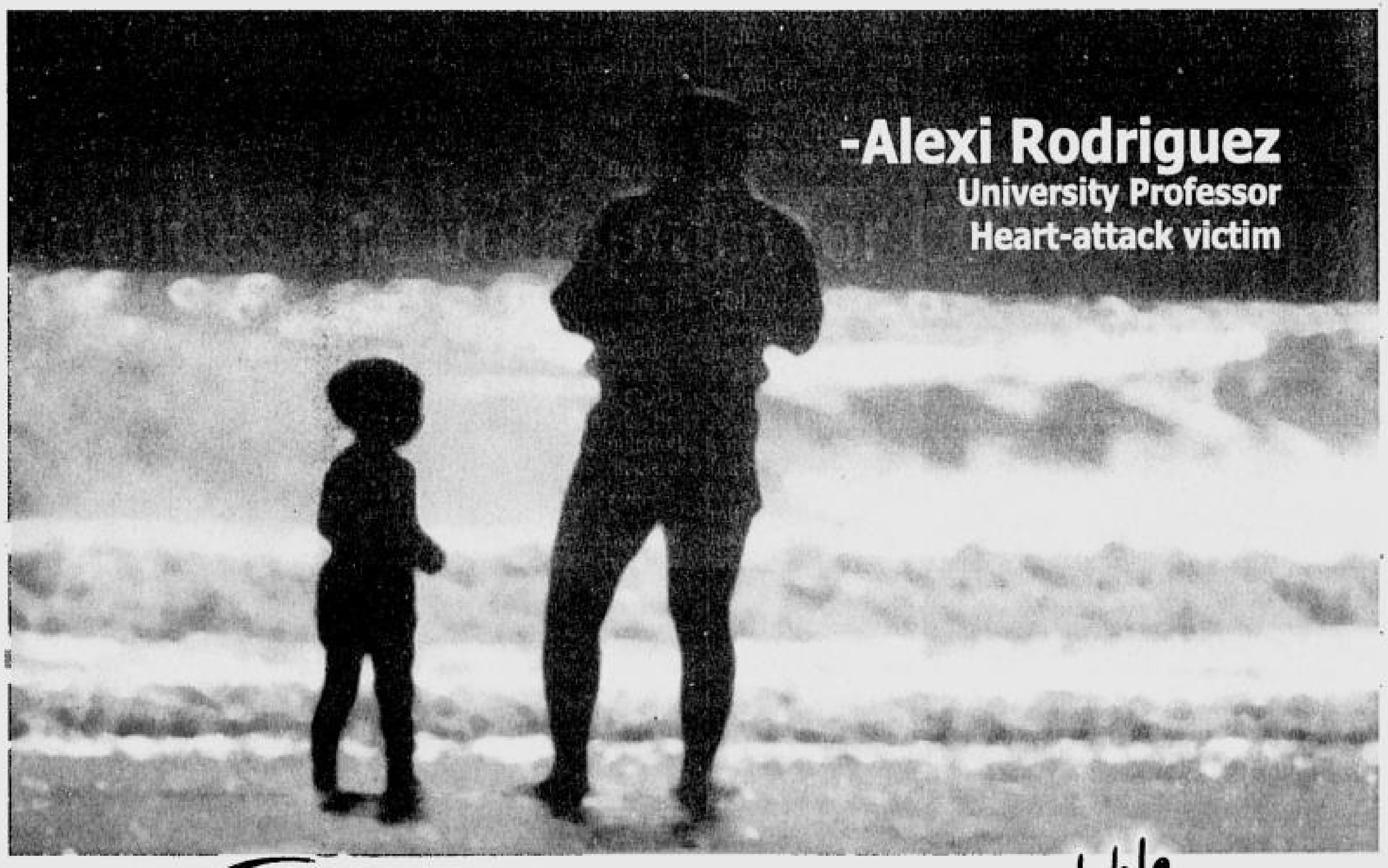

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REFERENCES:
1 Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995, 76:64C-68C.
2 Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (9326): 7-22.

* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

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PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

Measures to curb corruption proposed

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL businessmen have asked the government to involve the private sector in its procurement activities to minimize, if not totally eliminate, corruption in the bureaucracy.

The proposal was made following last weekend's mutiny of rebel soldiers who made serious charges of corruption against top officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry specifically recommended the inclusion of its representatives or other business groups in the bidding committees of government agencies. The group believes the government can save a lot of money if it would tap the support of the business community in streamlining the bureaucracy.

PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said government agencies would greatly benefit if they just adopt the procurement process observed by the Manila office of the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

For two years now, the DILG branch has been involving members of the PCCI and the Makati Business Club (MBC) in the bidding committees that handled its procurement activities.

Ortiz-Luis said that since this practice was adopted, the DILG Manila branch had already reduced its cost of procurement by P300 million.

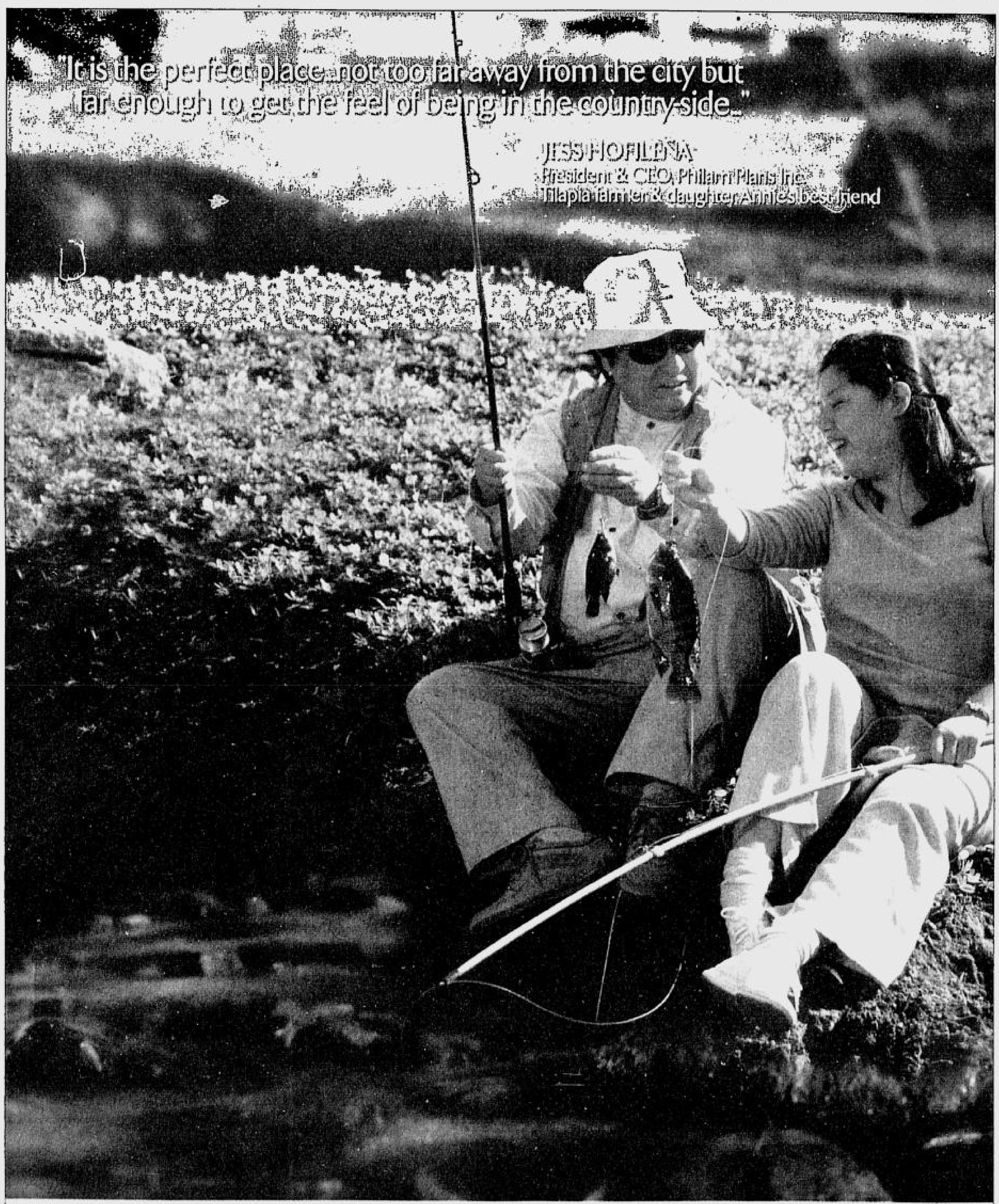
"It (inclusion of private sector in government procurement) is one test of the government's sincerity in addressing corruption. Letting the private sector participate in these activities will help prevent anomalies," said Ortiz-Luis in an interview.

Also, the business community said it was keeping an eye on the progress of reforms that the government had vowed to initiate to eliminate corruption.

During a security briefing of industry groups conducted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the DILG last Tuesday, business leaders had sought immediate action on the alleged corruption in the AFP and the Philippines National Police.

Business groups said they were particularly monitoring the progress of the recently created commission by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the veracity and the extent of the corruption charges made by the mutineers.

For the country's businessmen, one way to counter the negative image the recent mutiny gave the country was to ensure a quick and transparent solution of the rebel soldiers' grievances.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BPO seen key to making RP Asia's IT hub

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is banking on the potentials of the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector in making the country a leading information technology hub in Asia.

With the mushrooming of contact centers in the country, the DTI is now focusing on the enhancement of the BPO industry to maintain its growth momentum and eventually beat rivals in the field, such as India, which currently has the biggest number of call center seats.

To boost the industry's growth, the trade department will be holding an E-services forum where business problems, solution innovations and prospects would be discussed among members of the BPO industry.

The forum will be held on Aug. 6 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the forum is aimed at building a road map for the industry and maintaining the Philippine's advantage over other Asian countries in the BPO industry.

"We will help them map out strategies with the mission of maintaining the country's reputation as an ideal IT hub in Asia, bringing more investments and jobs for Filipinos," said Roxas in a statement.

More foreign firms have already expressed keen interest in investing in the country's so-called sunrise industry, and have told plans to put up call centers in the Philippines.

Executives of four American and Canadian companies, in particular, said they would soon establish contact center offices here following a sponsored tour in the country by Ayala Solutions, which designs, builds and manages communication networks for over a million business entities worldwide.

With the country's potentials in attracting foreign investments in the BPO field, the DTI has been wooing more firms to put up contact centers in the Philippines. *Mitch Remo*

8 mining firms earmark P200M for exploration

By Christine A. Gaylican

EIGHT mining companies will infuse more than P200 million into the ongoing gold, copper, silver and chromite exploration activities in Surigao del Norte, Southern Leyte and Zambales.

Subsidiaries of Australian mining firm Oxiana Resources such as Manila Mining Corp., Buena Suerte Mining Corp., and Oro Philippine Ventures Inc. will infuse nearly P80 million into their current exploration projects in Surigao del Norte and Southern Leyte, according to Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Crau Mineral Resources Corp., a partner of Australian firm Kinloc Mining Co., is also undertaking exploration work in Sta. Cruz and Candelaria, Zambales. They will pump P63 million into the 7-hectare field that is expected to produce chromite and minerals belonging to the platinum group.

Egerton Gold Phils. Inc. has tapped MRL Phil., a subsidiary of Canadian firm MRL Ltd., to undertake exploration activities in Lobo, Batangas, which is estimated to cost P6 million. MRL also has exploration projects in Pan de Azucar Island, Iloilo and Surigao del Norte for possible gold exploration.

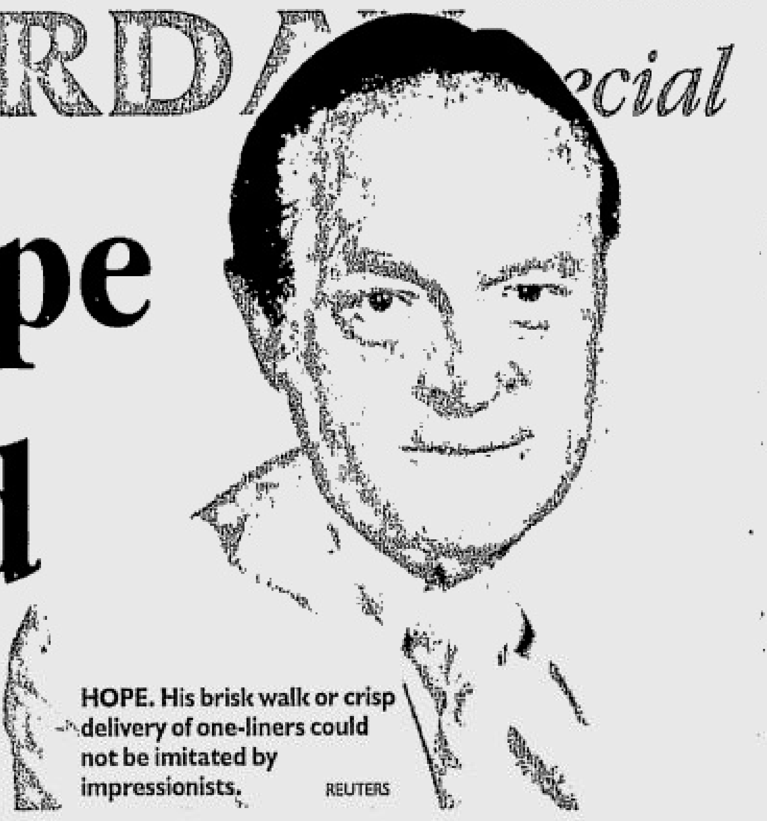
JCG Resources Corp., a subsidiary of Greenstone Resources of Australia, is currently conducting exploration works in Mainit, Alegria, Tubod and Bacuag in Surigao del Norte for possible production of gold, copper and silver. The company is expected to infuse more than P7 million for this project that covers a 3,288-hectare contract area.

Bureau of Mines director Horacio C. Ramos said other companies such as Coolabah Mining Corp. and Occidental Mining Corp., subsidiaries of Australian mining firm Climax-Arimco Mining Corp., have already invested half a million in US dollars for their gold-copper projects in Surigao del Norte and were expected to invest the same amount in their other exploration activities.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph
Editor **Nestor U. Torre**

SATURDAY Special

Bob Hope was one of a kind



HOPE. His brisk walk or crisp delivery of one-liners could not be imitated by impressionists. REUTERS

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—Bob Hope could not be imitated. Bing Crosby, Jimmy Stewart, Katharine Hepburn, Jimmy Durante and other stylized performers have all been fair game for impressionists. But no one was ever able to capture Hope's brisk walk or crisp delivery of one-liners—punctuated by his trademark "I wanna tell ya."

Anglo-American original

Hope, who died Sunday at 100, was an Anglo-American original—not schooled on the Borscht Circuit, but in the hurly-burly of 1920s vaudeville, playing to hick-town audiences as well as big-city sophisticates. First, as a dancer, then as a dancer who told jokes, he learned the skills that carried him to Broadway, Hollywood and beyond.

This reporter first met Bob Hope in 1944. I was working as a correspondent in rural Fresno, California, when I heard that he was coming to a nearby base to entertain the airmen. When Hope stepped off the bus with his troupe, I proposed an interview, and he agreed—after the show.

Routines

Several thousand GI's roared at Hope's routines with Jerry Colonna and whistled at the beauties he had brought up from Hollywood. I caught up with Hope as he was loading the entertainers onto the bus. "Sorry, kid, I've gotta get these people back to town; we gotta work tomorrow," he explained.

He never stiffed me again. Other stars may have been elusive, but Bob was always available, happily doling out quips and snippets of news that would make a story.

Hope also enjoyed awards, winning 1,500 during his career. They included presidential citations, honorary college degrees and four Academy Awards, though never for best actor. "Welcome to the Academy Awards," he announced at one Oscar ceremony. "Or, as we call it at my house, Passover."

Opportunities

Bob Hope came from England to Cleveland at the age of 4 and was raised in an English household. He appreciated the opportunities that his new country provided and served it with his talent.

The Vietnam War brought the only dissonant note in his love affair with America. Hope entertained in the war zone, often within the sounds of battle. He also visited hospitals, entering wards of the war-wounded with a hearty "Don't get up."

Back stateside, Hope praised the bravery of the young men fighting the war and predicted an early victory. Some close to him suggested that Bob had been brainwashed by generals and high officials who had proclaimed a "light at the end of the tunnel."

Young protesters of the war found Hope an easy target and attacked him for being a warmonger. He was bewildered by their vehemence and answered that his only concern was for the troops that were fighting the war.

Controversy

When I wrote a story about the controversy, an editor included a remark that Hope was "a Vietnam War hawk." Bob was soon on the phone: "How dare you call me a hawk?," he demanded. It was the only harsh comment I ever heard from him.

It was his 90th birthday special, when instead of performing his traditional opening monologue, he was a spectator for the entire show, seated like a rajah on a throne. His lively, mischievous eyes had dimmed. *AP*

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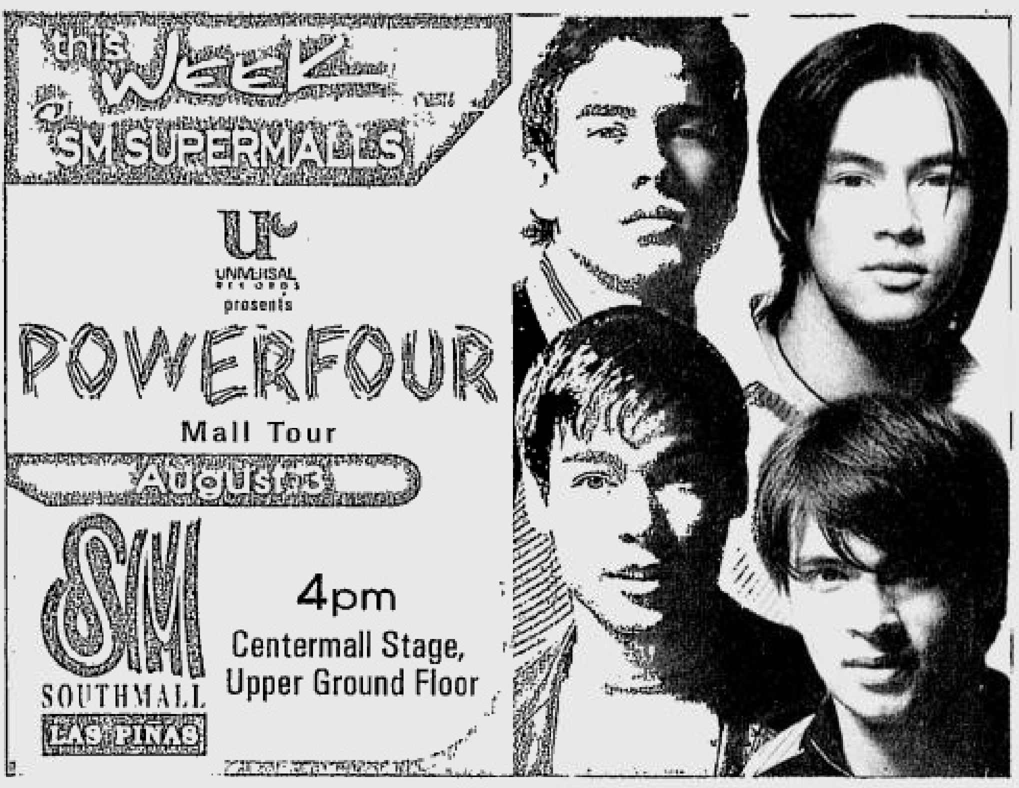

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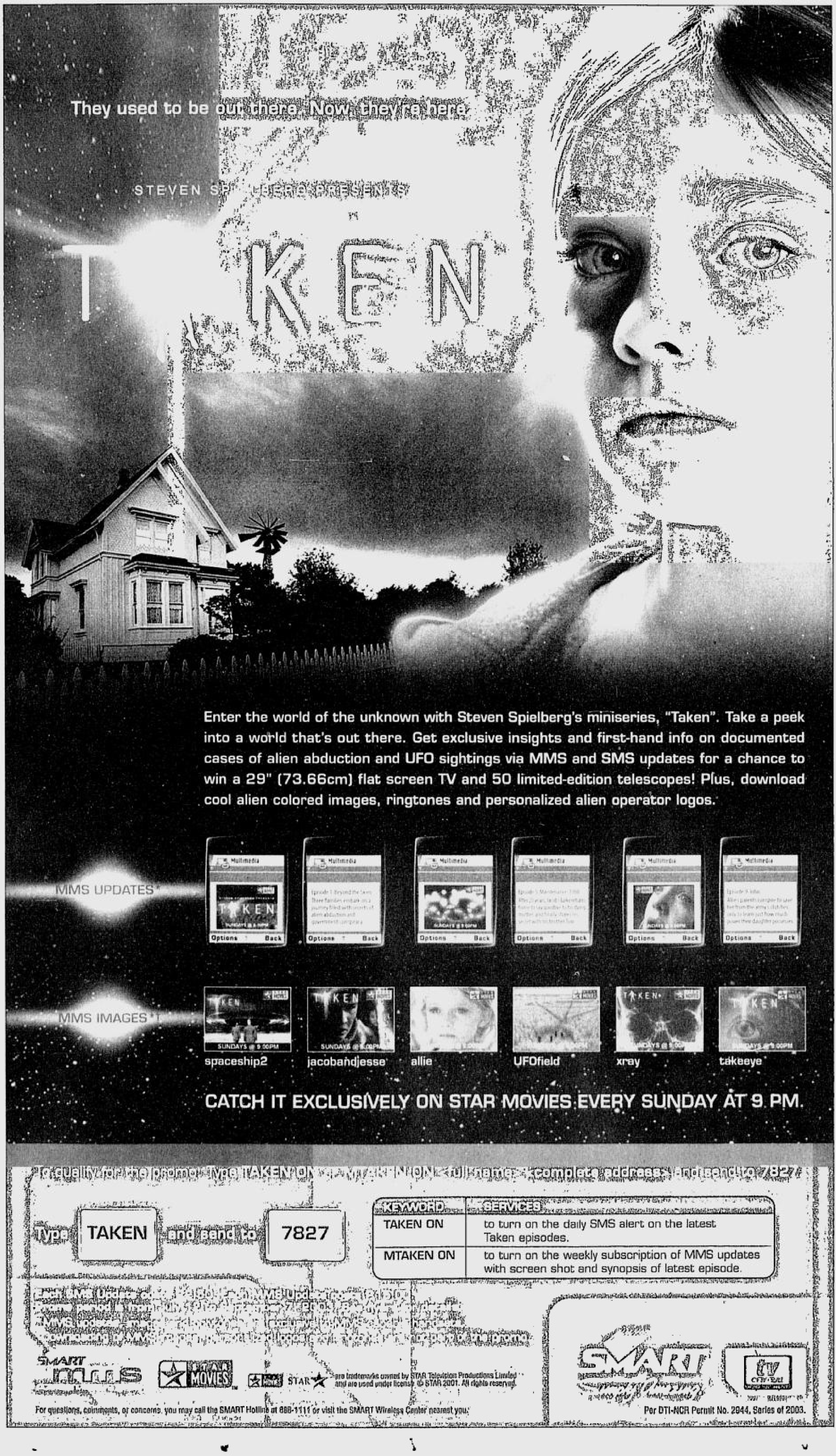

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Dexter aims for singing stardom

From page C3

jobs," he adds.

His first album, which has 14 tracks, took five long months to complete. "We had some laughs in the studio because there were Tagalog lyrics that took me a long time to pronounce perfectly. But I love Tagalog lyrics because they're more heartfelt," Dexter relates.

Dexter is guesting on TV shows and going on mall tours to get his music heard. He is promoting his second single, "Puso sa Puso," another pop ballad penned by Moy Ortiz and Edith Gallardo. On Aug. 4 and 18, Dexter will take center stage at Hard Rock in Makati, with Cris Villonco as his special guest.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 6	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 7	TOMB RAIDER 2

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AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 07	UAAP GAMES
AUG 09	UAAP GAMES
AUG 14	UAAP GAMES
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAD BOYS 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAD BOYS 2
B	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	TOMB RAIDER 2
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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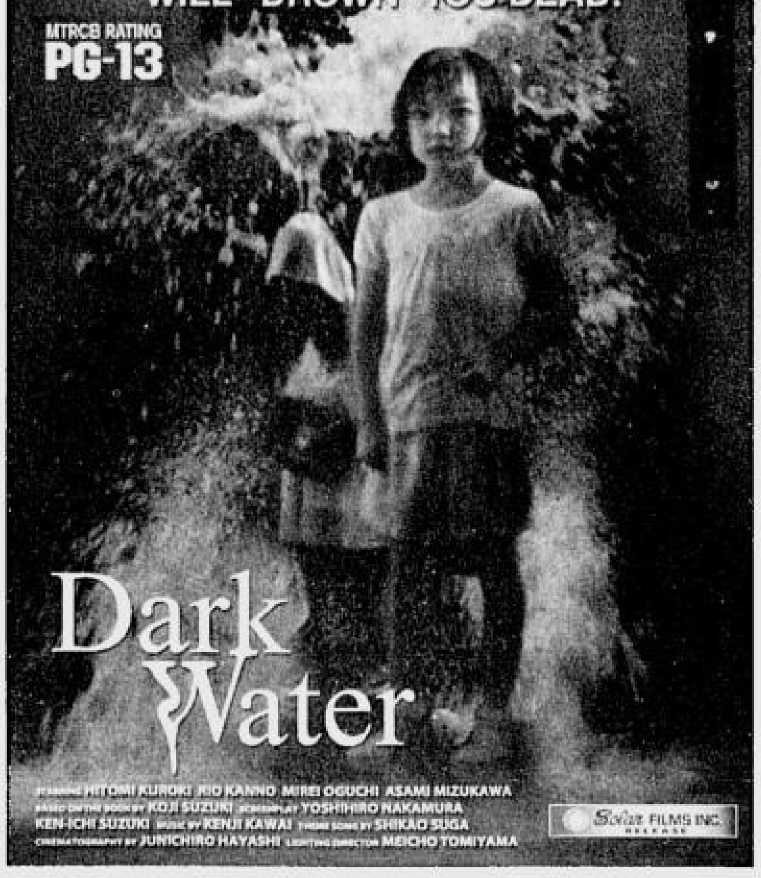

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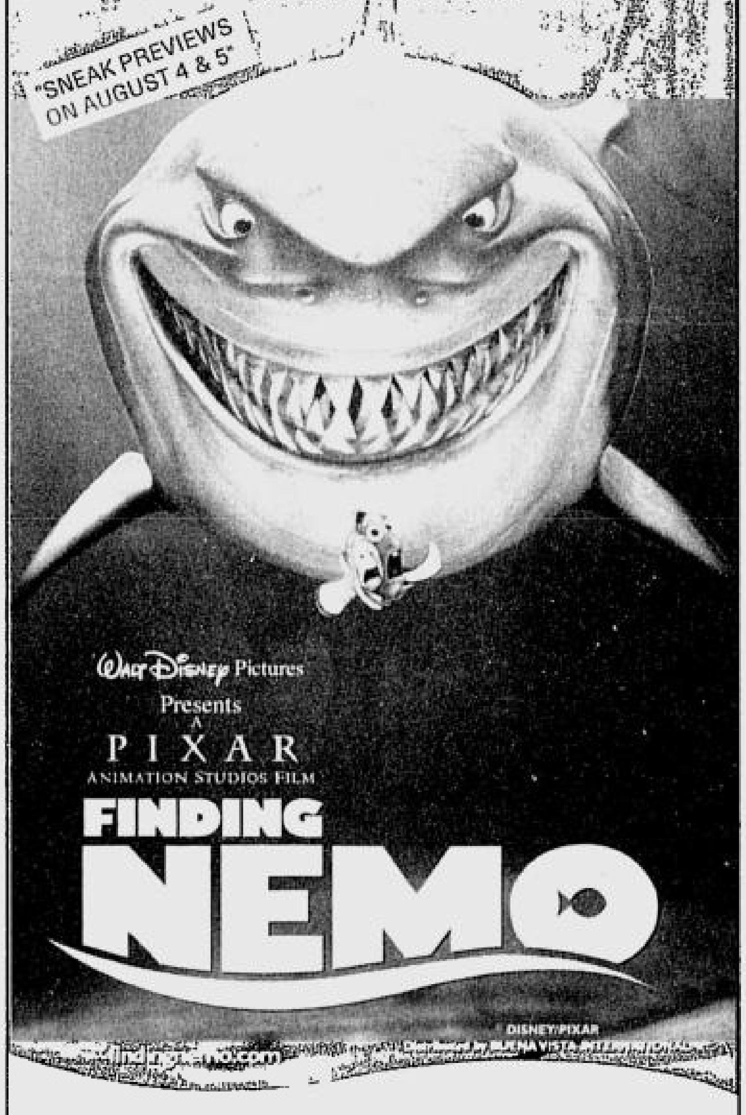

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Aug. 2 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

MAKATI
Aug. 8 - 1pm, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 9 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug. 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

CEBU
Aug. 15 - 11am, 4pm, 7pm
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DOUBLE VISION

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- A wealthy businessman accused of spilling toxic waste into the ocean is discovered dead in his office. Although the room is completely dry, he is believed to have drowned.
- A beautiful mistress of a government official has been burned to death in her home, although there are no signs of fire anywhere.
- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle.

To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer In The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality

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MORSE. Plays an FBI agent who's an expert at investigating serial murders.

'DOUBLE VISION'

Unblinking depiction of violence

By Rito P. Asilo

DIRECTOR Chen Kuo-fu consistently imbues his films with indelible images that stay with the moviegoer long after the closing credits have rolled.

Striking images

If you love suspense-thrillers that make you think, "Double Vision" is for you. In the film, the acclaimed director of "Peony Pavilion" uses striking images and intelligent execution that set the movie apart from tedious whodunits.

You know you've seen it before, but you've never seen it presented this way—it's "The X-Files" and eastern mysticism transposed into the politically sensitive social climate of an Asian country:

A washed-up Taiwanese cop (Award-winning Hong Kong actor Tony Leung), tormented by a marriage on the verge of divorce, a daughter who hasn't spoken in two years and a recent demotion for squealing about police corruption, is paired up with an FBI serial murder expert (David Morse) to investigate a series of unrelated murders which defy scientific reason:

A corrupt businessman is found physiologically frozen to death, with findings consistent with drowning, in his 17th floor office on a summer day; a senator's mistress is burned to death in her apartment with no sign of any fire having taken place; a gun-running priest is found disemboweled in his bed; a gangster's heart is ripped off his chest.

Morally corrupt

The only thing the morally corrupt victims have in common is a black fungus found in their brains which leaves them in a state of blissful hallucination at the time of death.

In the course of investigation, they discover that the murders seem to be imitations of ritual killings found in ancient Taoist cult teachings. The discipline enumerates five steps, called "hells," to attain immortality: "frigid hell;" "fire hell;" "disembowelment;" "heart extraction"

UNBLINKING/C4

Dexter aims for singing stardom

By Andy P. Bais

DEXTER. "Miss Saigon" veteran.

DEXTER'S name may not be that popular yet, but his signature song is. His is the voice behind the hit pop ballad, "Bakit Nga Ba Hindi?," his duet with Bituin Escalante. The song is also the carrier single of Dexter's debut album.

Diploma

The 22-year-old singer did not go the amateur singing contest route, the usual breeding ground for local recording artists, but his musical background is nonetheless impressive. For three years, he was part of the cast of "Miss Saigon" in Australia and London. He also has a diploma in contemporary music.

Dexter discovered his musical gift when he was in high school in Sydney, Australia. He is a rocker at heart, but he loves singing pop songs, as well. He has joined rock bands composed of multi-racial members.

Dexter had a recording of his voice made on CD, and his mother gave it to Pilita Corrales. "The next thing I knew, I guested in her shows in Australia. Then, she invited me to try my luck here, and the recording contract with Viva Records followed," Dexter relates.

Parents

When we asked Dexter where he got his musical gift, he credited his parents, both Filipinos: "My dad is not really a singer, but he stays in tune more often than my mom. So, I think I got my singing voice from him. My mom often talks loudly and that's probably where I got my projection," he smiles.

Among local artists, he admires Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano. Dexter is happiest when he is performing. "It's a joy sharing your talent with your audience. You don't get that kind of satisfaction from other

DEXTER/C2

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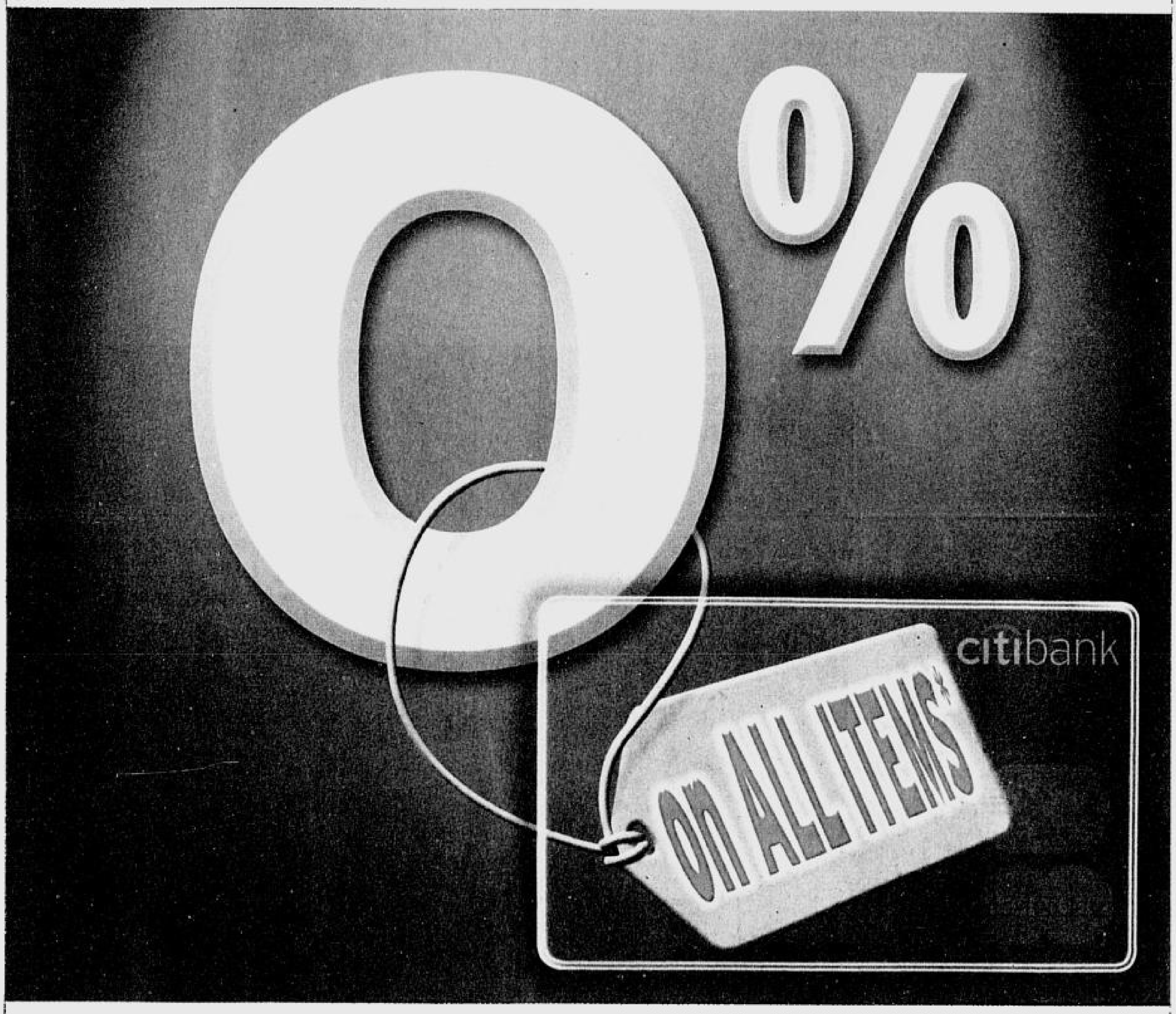

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Heady mix

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ANGELINA Jolie, star of the current film, "Lara Croft: The Cradle of Life," is a heady mix of sultry beauty and tempestuous temperament. No wonder: her dad is Jon Voight, who's also known for his artistically idiosyncratic ways.

Despite her sexy screen image, Jolie has come up with memorable performances that have won her an Oscar and three Golden Globes. Thus, the actress' actuations may sometimes turn some people off, but she's clearly no ditzy dame. Her film bio speaks for itself:

She recently starred in "Life or Something Like It." In 2001, she made the first Lara Croft film. She also starred in "Original Sin," opposite Antonio Banderas.

Jolie's portrayal of a mental patient in "Girl, Interrupted" garnered her an Academy Award, a Golden Globe trophy, a Broadcast Film Critics Award, and a Supporting Actress Award from the Screen Actors Guild.

Before that, Jolie played a rookie cop opposite Denzel Washington in the thriller, "The Bone Collector."

Jolie's performance in "Playing by Heart" earned Jolie the National Board of Review's Award for Breakthrough Performance. And HBO's "Gia" garnered the actress a Golden Globe award, a Screen Actors Guild award, and an Emmy nomination.

JOLIE. Sultry beauty and tempestuous temperament.

The actress won her first Golden Globe award in "George Wallace" for her portrayal of the Alabama governor's second wife.

Movies on TV

On HBO: Aug. 2 at 9:30 a.m., "The Accidental Tourist." 4:30 p.m., "Riding in Cars with Boys." Aug. 3 at 12:30 p.m., "Training Day." 4:15 p.m., "Finding Forrester." 6:30 p.m., "Black Beauty." Aug. 4 at 3:30 p.m., "Lost in Yonkers." 10:30 p.m., "Forrest Gump."

Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m., "Cast Away." Aug. 6 at 9 p.m., "Ed." Aug. 7 at 4:15 a.m., "Apollo 13." Aug. 8 at 5:30 p.m., "Children of a Lesser God."

On the Cinemax channel: Aug. 2 at 6 a.m., "Boyz n the Hood." 7:45 p.m., "The Bridge on the River Kwai." Aug. 3 at 7:15 p.m., "Regarding Henry." 3 a.m., "When Worlds Collide." Aug. 4 at 6 a.m., "Journey to the Center of the Earth." 12:30 a.m., "The Flying Dutchman." 2 a.m., "The Caine Mutiny."

Aug. 5 at 6 a.m., "My Horrible Year." 7:45 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." 9 p.m., "Goodfellas." Aug. 6 at 10:45 a.m., "Feds." 5:15 p.m., "To Catch a Thief." Aug. 7 at 2 p.m., "Rear Window." Aug. 8 at 8:15 a.m., "Heist."

'Bulletproof Monk'

"Bulletproof Monk" is a film that's right up Chow Yun-Fat's alley.

In the movie based on the popular underground comic strip, Chow plays a Zen-becalmed martial arts master who protects a secret scroll said to give ultimate power to anyone who reads it in its entirety.

As an acolyte 60 years back in Tibet, the monk was trained to become the scroll's guardian against Struker, a young commander of the Third Reich, who wanted the scroll for his own selfish intentions. The monk escaped, and kept the scroll out of Struker's reach for another 60 years.

Now faced with finding the scroll's next guardian, he discovers that his successor is a street-tough youth named Kar (Seann William Scott). They become unlikely partners in shielding the scroll from Struker.

Funny Mommy

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

It's been 21 years since Lala died. Last Monday, the family gathered to celebrate her birthday—which I missed. On Saturday next week, we'll gather once more to remember her passing—which I hope I won't miss.

Source of strength

She was Lala to you, Mommy to me. She was Ma. Clara Vega-Jimenez. Yes, I named you after her and, God knows, whenever I missed her, I'd hug you and, somehow, the cry that was caught in my throat would go away. To this day, her memory is my source of strength and inspiration.

My own birthday, Aug. 6, happens to fall right between her natal day (July 28) and her death anniversary Aug. 9). Before her last birthday, she came to Manila from Korea, where she was based, to stay for a few days each in the homes of her children here. Then, she flew to the US to do the same with her other kids there.

She was in New York for her last birthday. When my own birthday rolled in, she called me up to greet me and to find out how I'd celebrate my special day. Then, she told me that a package she had sent me was on its way. Three days later, she died. I completely forgot about the package, which didn't come—until exactly a year later!

I was going through my long to-do list that day, busy preparing for her first death anniversary, when the package arrived. Inside were all kinds of chocolates, a comforter, a TV guide and a red dress.

The gifts made me smile. Her letter in the birthday card that went with them made me cry. Mommy began with, "You're not getting any younger. . ." Immediately, I wept. It was Mommy's way of reminding me how badly I was botching up my life, and I didn't even know it.

Then, she ended the letter with, "Take care of the kids." That broke the dam. For, despite the material comforts I was then able to provide for my family, I felt I wasn't really taking care of my children the way she had taken care of us.

Nich always called her "Funny Mommy"—not because she was a comedienne, but because she had a contagious sense of joy. And she always did things differently. She was in a class all her own. Remarkable. Exceptional. Extraordinary. Special.

Poise

She was always in control. Nothing could ruffle her feathers. When her sister, Tita Unting, died, she was an icon of poise. She did cry, but it was no noisy lamentation. Which I wasn't able to do when she died, for I broke the peace with my screams of immeasurable grief.

No bad word ever passed through Mommy's lips. She could put anybody to his place with her powerful stare—if looks could kill, Mommy would have been on death row! But she was beyond cussing. She was far too elegant for that.

FUNNY/C5

John Lloyd Cruz sets high standard for himself

By Jocelyn Valle

WHEN John Lloyd Cruz was tapped to play the pivotal role of Lorna Tolentino's long-lost son, Yuri in the *teleserye*, "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay," the young star was ecstatic.

Workshops

He eagerly attended the workshops for the young actors in the cast.

In "Kay Tagal," former street kid Yuri becomes a sensible and dignified young lawyer with the help of his surrogate father, Mirdo (played by Ronnie Lazaro), and mentor, Dmitri (Johnny Delgado).

On his first taping day, John Lloyd kept trembling, and he eventually broke down. "I felt I wasn't able to give justice to the role," he recalls.

He is grateful to Delgado, who helped him delineate his role. "I learned a lot from him," says John Lloyd about the veteran actor. *"Sabi niya, dapat walang* pattern *ang* acting *ko*, and that I should focus more on my character."

John Lloyd is also in the Sunday-afternoon youth series, "Tabing Ilog," which is shot on location in Laguna. And he will play a lead role in a Star Cinema movie this year—a twin bill that will feature two of the most popular love teams now: John Lloyd and Bea Alonzo, and John Prats and Heart Evangelista.

When a whitening soap brand conducted market research a few months ago, they found out that many people wanted John Lloyd to endorse their product. "But I thought hard before I accepted the offer of Silka," the actor relates. *"Then I found out na hindi naman ako gagamit ng sabon sa* commercial, so OK *lang*."

CRUZ. Will play a lead role in a Star Cinema film this year.

Unblinking

From page C3

and "tongue removal."

The cult has been resurrected by two eccentric billionaires, who believe that a "chosen one"—one with double-pupiled eyeballs—may achieve immortality through ritualistic killings. In reality, this congenital anomaly, called "polycoria," is rare, but is not a medical impossibility.

Morse, Leung and Rene Liu, as Leung's wife, give solid performances.

Well-shot, beautifully lit, and briskly edited, Kuo-fu's film is a cerebral thriller that is not very original. It reminds you of Kurosawa Kiyoshi's "Cure" and David Fincher's "Seven," and may require repeated viewing to fully understand.

The clashing cultures and egos of the protagonists give the film its funny moments, especially when an earnest Morse practises his Chinese and ends up saying the wrong things. (His noble attempt to say "thank you" comes out as "thank you, mama.")

Filipino worker

Similarly interesting was the inclusion of a scene where Leung's character arrests a Filipino worker for allegedly "violating Taiwan's agreement with the Philippines on foreign workers." In the scene, Leung tries his spotty Tagalog: *"Ako ay mag-aresto!"* To which, the Filipino actor stoically answers, *"Ano ba'ng nagawa ko,* Sir?" Nice!

The pacing may be uneven at times, and the movie's gruesome depiction of violence may throw off some people. But this unblinking depiction of unthwarted violence gives the story its needed depth, and allows the material to transcend the predictable limitations of a staid genre.

LOSE
YOURSELF in YOUR
MUSIC

Makati Cinemanila 2003 jury named

HOLLOWAY. Author of six books on film history and criticism.

THE FIFTH Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival, from Aug. 7 to 24 at Greenbelt Cinemas, will be a close race, as new and veteran directors from around the globe vie for the top prizes: The Lino Brocka Award, NETPAC Award, and the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema.

Chairman

The Lino Brocka International jury consists of chairman Ron Holloway, film critic Scott Rosenberg, Vietnamese director Dang Nhat Minh, Israeli director Dan Wollman and Filipino film critic Gino Dormiendo.

Holloway is a correspondent for various publications like Variety, the Hollywood Reporter, Moving Pictures International, the Financial Times, and the Herald Tribune. He is the author of six books on film history and criticism, and co-founded the Chicago Center for Film Study and the Cleveland Cinematheque.

Outstanding directors

Writer-director Dang Nhat Minh has won numerous prizes in international film festivals. His films have been presented in Japan, Switzerland, France, Japan and Great Britain.

Wollman studied at the Film Institute of City College New York and New York University, after which he returned to his native Israel, where he shot his first feature film, "The Dreamer," an official entry to the 1970 Cannes Film Festival.

Rosenberg is Asia Pacific Bureau Chief for the New York-based Film Journal International, producer of the Thai film in development, "Lord of the Rainy Season," and entertainment consultant and managing director of a Bangkok entertainment PR and marketing outfit.

Dormiendo has attended the Moscow, Hong Kong and Calabria, Italy international film festivals. He teaches at the UP Film Institute and contributes to the Inquirer.

Chief editor

The NETPAC jury is composed of chair Aruna Vasudev from India, and Wong Tuck Cheong from Malaysia. Vasudev is founder and chief editor of Cinemaya, the world's first and only journal devoted to the promotion of Asian cinema.

Wong Tuck Cheong is a member of NETPAC and contributor to Cinemaya.

Composing the Young Cinema jury are Robert Malengreau as chairman, and Mes de Guzman. Malenggreau is a journalist, film critic, editor of Belgian Cinema News, secretary-general of Center Multimedia Bruxelles, and founder of several festivals and film competitions.

De Guzman is a past winner of the Ishmael Bernal Award from Makati Cinemanila, after which he won the top prize in the Morocco Film Festival.

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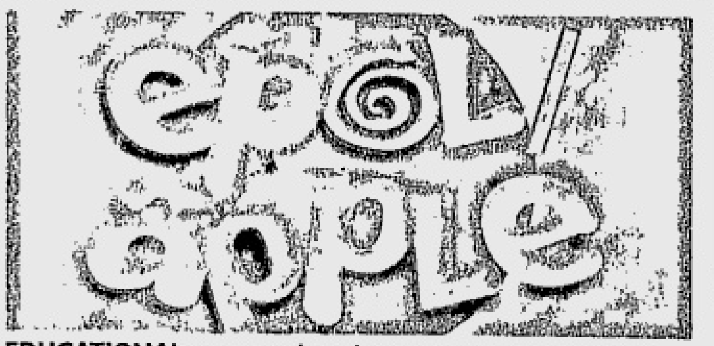


EDUCATIONAL programs have become popular with young viewers.

How TV can serve young Filipino viewers better

By Nestor U. Torre

(Conclusion)

NOTE that the top stars of comedy shows are adults, from whom young viewers sometimes pick up unsavory attitudes. There is a need to build up child and teen stars for comedy programs where they should play lead roles, rather than their usual supporting parts.

Noontime shows

Teen viewers' favorite musical variety shows are led by noontime shows and music-video programs. The noontime shows are a major problem because they've become shrill, salacious and plug- and game-oriented; rather than truly entertaining. A big review and revamp are decidedly in order.

As for news and public affairs programs, the causes for concern are the tabloidization of the news, too many crime stories, the increased blurring of the line between news and entertainment, and the lack of objectivity and genuine investigative spirit in public-affairs shows.

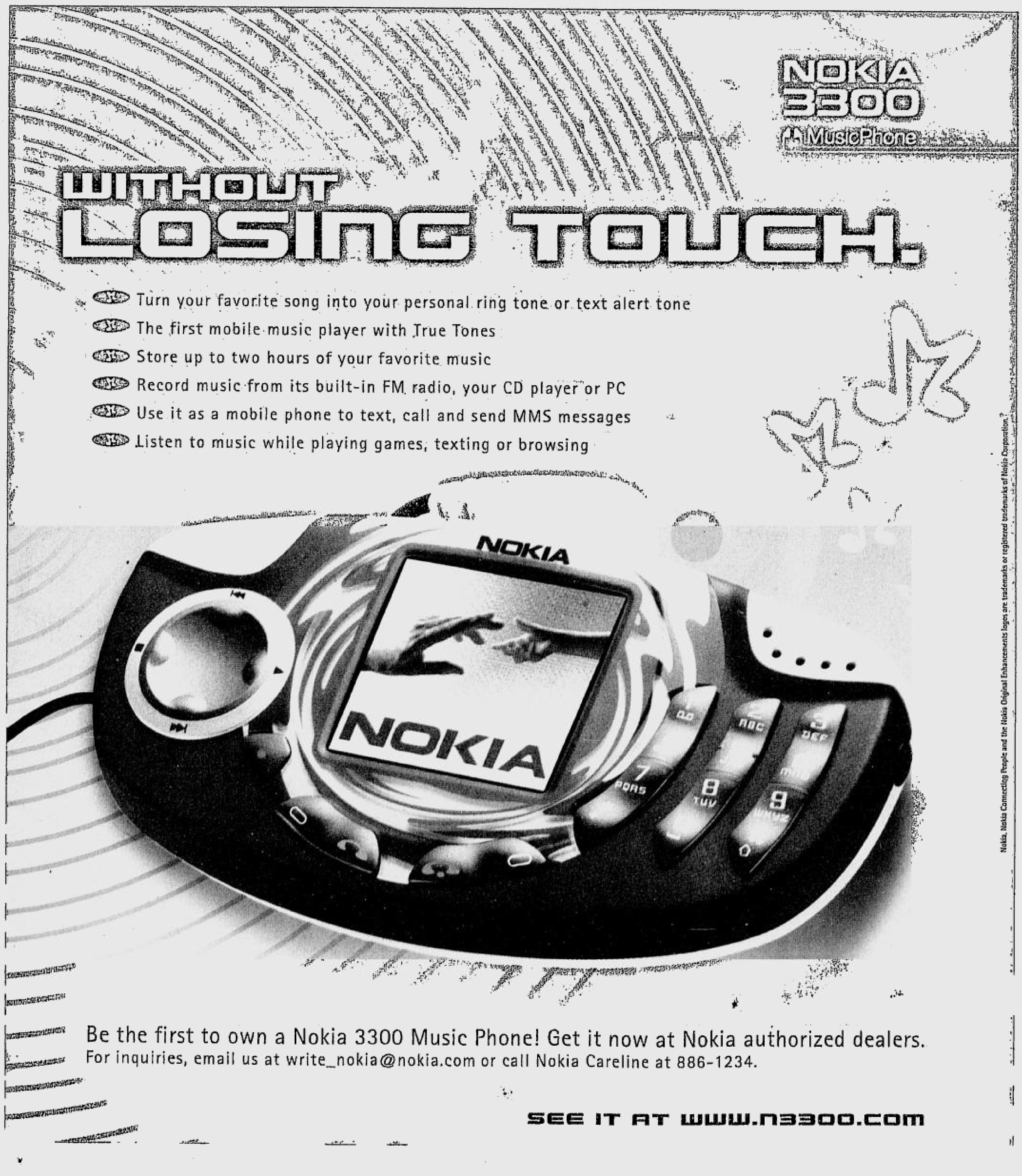
In their choices of favorite programs in this category, the teen respondents sometimes reveal the negative effects of these perceived deficiencies, because a number of their favorites are among the worst offenders of the lot. If our teenagers can't tell good from bad TV news reportage and public affairs coverage, we truly have a problem.

More upbeat

The educational program category's findings are more upbeat, because they show that educational material has become popular with young viewers, thanks to the initiative of some responsible network people and outside producers.

We trust that these and other points brought out by the Anak TV survey findings will motivate our TV workers to serve our young viewers better and more responsibly in television seasons to come.

Television has become a major force in society. The youth are our country's most important resource. May force serve resource, not the other way around, as has been the case for much too long on the local TV scene.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Funny

From page C4

Another indication that Mommy was upset was when she used Bisaya words. But then, she also used them whenever something made her happier than usual.

Mommy's favorite Bisaya words for me was *lamlama* which meant *bulaan*, and *kundatan*, which meant *alembong*. Oh, how she winced at my *kalamlamaan* and *kakundatan*, but she never lost her composure. She'd even cover up for me whenever Nich looked for me and I was out with the latest boy to catch my fancy.

Harbinger

She was always properly dressed, not a strand of teased hair askew. She was always made-up for breakfast—with everything in place, including her false eyelashes—that was her way of joyfully welcoming every morning as the harbinger of God's blessings for the day.

I remember, I once brought a friend to Korea who was totally clueless about decorum and etiquette. One time, she had breakfast with her curlers still on. Mommy's jaw fell at the sight of my friend. Then, she pursed her lips to control any improper word that may have involuntarily escaped from them.

Mommy got her strength from her faith. She was a very prayerful person—and she was always busy with charity and civic work. She'd distribute groceries to the poor in Pasig—and she didn't need the Christmas season or a calamity to do it, either.

She was a sucker for ritual and tradition.

Presents

Every Christmas eve, we eagerly anticipared Mommy playing

FUNNY/ C6

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM AUG 2 - AUG 8

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	6 30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7 30 Buttercup 9 00 Arriba, Arriba 10 30 Kontrobersyal 11 30 "F" 12 00 Sports Unlimited	7.00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8.00 The Working President 9.00 To be Announced	7.00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Viva Box Office 11.00 Go For Gold	6.00 Search for a Star 6.30 Imbestigador 7.30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8 30 Kakabakaba 9 30 Blockbuster Cinema 11.20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6 00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8.00 John Doe 9 00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5 00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 7:30 Kidscelera 8:00 Amazing Twins 11:00 Iyo Ang Katarungan	6.00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7 30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9.30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7 00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9.00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10.00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6.00 E! News Weekend 7.00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 10 00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7 00 Wansapanataym 8 30 Home Along Da Riles 9.30 Sunday Family Cinema 11 30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4 00 PBA Games 9 00 The Working President 10.00 Standing Room Only	6 00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup atpb. 8.00 Sing-Galing 9 00 Viva Cine Idols 11.00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7.00 KI 8.30 Daddy Di Do Du 9 30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11.30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6 00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Match TV 9.00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	4 00 PBA Games 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11 30 El Shaddai	6 00 Jimmy Neutron 6 30 Futurama 7 00 Digital tour 7 30 Spy TV 8 00 Yes Dear 8 30 Just Shoot Me 9 00 Will & Grace 9 30 The West Wing 10 30 Scariest Places on Earth 11 30 News Central	7.00 Sunday Mini-Series 8 00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7.00 E! Original Specials 8 00 Rank 9 00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10.00 Movies on E!
	6 00 TV Patrol 6.30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7 00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7.30 Game K N B? 8 00 Darating Ang Umaga 8.30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9 00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11 30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7.00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8.00 TeleDyaryo 10.00 Family Rosary Crusade 11.00 Auto Focus	6 00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7.00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8.30 That 70s Show 9 00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10 00 The Big News 10 30 Mad TV	6 15 Frontpage 7.00 Lavender 7.40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8 10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8.50 Ang Ibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9 30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11.00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6 00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7.00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9 00 Harsh Realm 10 00 Newswatch Now 10.30 Sex & the City 11 00 OPTV	6 00 Quantum Info 6:30 NBA Jam 9 30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6.00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8.00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10 00 News Central 10.30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6 00 E! News Live 7 00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9 00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
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Llana's distinctive vocal range showcased in self-titled album

By Noelani Torre

WITH its Louie Ocampo classics and other OPM favorites, the track listing of actor-singer Jose Llana's self-titled album reads like your typical Pinoy balladeer's repertoire.

Reluctant

So, you couldn't really blame us when we found ourselves just a tad reluctant to listen to what we thought was yet another classic rehashing by yet another wannabe crooner (in a country where singers practically grow on trees).

Two minutes into the album's first track, however, we found ourselves paying attention to one of the finest voices we've recently heard. Jose Llana, it turns out, isn't just another typical Pinoy balladeer—he's a Filipino-American Broadway star whose theatrical training is, no doubt, the reason for his singing's distinctive feel.

Most recently seen playing opposite Lea Salonga in the David Henry Hwang remake of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song," the twentysomething Llana is the quintessential example of what folks would call a "world-class performer."

Broadway productions

His Broadway productions include "Rent" (where he played Angel), "Streetcorner Symphony," and "The King and I" (where he was the young lover, Lun Tha). He has also graced off-Broadway and regional stages, in such productions as "Saturn Returns," "On the Town," Cameron Mackintosh's "Martin Guerre," "Ballad of Little Jo" and "Candide," garnering a Joseph. Jefferson Award nomination and a Barrymore Award nomination, respectively, for his performances in the two latter productions. Llana has appeared in the popular television shows "Sex and the City" and "As the World Turns."

LLANA. Fresh approach and theatrical flourish.

We didn't know this before we first listened to the CD, so we found ourselves pleasantly surprised by Llana's smooth-as-silk, but definitely un-boring crooning.

There are heaps of good Pinoy singers lying about, but Llana is more than good—he is distinctive! His voice is pure, his delivery snag-free, and the emotion behind every line is genuine enough to send a shiver up your spine.

There are 14 tracks in "Jose" (Viva Records), all of them OPM classics. The selection is more or less safe—after all, one can hardly go wrong with such well-loved tunes as Ogie Alcasid's "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," Ryan Cayabyab's "Nais Ko," and Louie Ocampo and Martin Nievera's "You Are My Song."

Familiar line-up

Then again, a familiar line-up can also be disastrously bland, a description that is thankfully inapplicable to this recording. Llana gives these well-known songs a fresh approach, making them his own with a theatrical flourish.

Closer listening reveals faint traces of an American accent in the Tagalog songs (and most of the cuts in this album is in Tagalog), but we have no quarrel with that. It's perfectly understandable, as Llana, though born here, grew up in the States. At least, he sounds like he really tried to smooth it out, unlike some other Fil-Am talents who seem to revel in their other-ness by emphasizing a slang-y approach to the language.

There are no particular tracks we object to, but we have our favorites: The opening track, "To Love You Once Again" (Louie Ocampo-Freddie Santos) is one of them, with its clean, melodic simplicity that allows us to really appreciate the unique quality of Llana's voice.

Duet

The singer has one duet, "Iduyan Mo" (Ryan Cayabyab), with Regine Velasquez, and holds his own with the belting queen. The song is soft, which restrains the latter somewhat (and, in truth, makes her sound better), making for a satisfyingly rich rendering.

We were quite impressed with Llana's rendition of "Sana'y Maghintay ang Walang Hanggan" (Willy Cruz/Baby Gil), a song whose aura has been growing cheesier lately. He manages to breathe life into it again with his effortlessly gliding voice.

Llana and his producers did well to choose classics for his first Filipino album, as they not only anchor his image, but also showcase the range and capabilities of his impressive vocal instrument.

And, at the risk of sounding flippant, we have to say that anyone who can make such old favorites as "Iisa Pa Lamang" and "Habang May Buhay" sound new is definitely a talent worth cultivating.

Funny Mommy

From page C5

"Gather 'Round the Christmas Tree" on the piano, for that signaled the time for opening our presents. And she always had a present for everyone.

We were nine children in the family but Mommy always found time for all of us. I can never forget a particular birthday when she surprised me by picking me up in school for a hearty Chinese dinner and a movie afterwards. That really made me feel very special.

I was thrilled when I saw how happy Mommy was about the success I had in show business. One time, I saw her face wreathed in mirth as she presented me with a huge bunch of *bakya* keychains she had bought in Baguio. "I never knew you were so popular, Lourdes. These key chains have your name on them!" she exclaimed.

During the blessing of my first house in Meycauayan, Mommy was impressed by the array of movie celebrities who came—proudly acknowledging that I had really "arrived."

Radio show

It was Mommy who gave me my show biz name. I was already anchoring my own radio show and needed a new name because Lourdes Jimenez-Carvajal was quite bland. Immediately, she suggested "Inday Badiday," which she borrowed from a village idiot back in Balingasag, Misamis Oriental, where she grew up. I used the name and my fate was sealed.

Dear Clara, I could talk on and on about Lala. There was a time, whenever I remembered her, that I felt I had somehow failed her.

But, last night, in my prayers, I realized that Lala only needed to look at me to see that I'd done my best. She only needed to look inside my heart to know that I'd given my all.

Yes, dearest Clara, you are living up to the best expectations of the woman after whom I named you. That, my child, is your inheritance and legacy. Embrace it, take care of it. You are the dividend of all the deposits that Lala invested in me.

Aiza on 'Inday, Heart to Heart'

Aiza Seguerra will talk and sing her way into everyone's heart tomorrow, Sunday, 10 a.m., GMA-7, on "Inday, Heart to Heart."

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Pinoy film chosen as finalist in Yamagata documentary filmfest

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A for this week:

From *Melanie Ejerada*: **"Among my favorite shows are documentary films shown on Animal Planet, National Geographic and the Discovery channels. Why don't our filmmakers do documentaries like they do abroad?"**

A number of Pinoy filmmakers specialize in documentaries, although, other than occasional screenings in filmfests like the annual "Pelikula at Lipunan" and "Cinemanila," their films don't get that much local exposure.

Incessant preachiness

More often than not, audiences shy away from incessant preachiness, drab storytelling or subject-ingratiating topics that are common to the genre. Recently, a number of documentaries, like Steve James' "Hoop Dreams" (1994), have found appreciative audiences in mainstream releases. They have become too noticeable to ignore.

This is the success currently enjoyed by controversial Oscar-winning director Michael Moore's (remember the Bush-bashing winner at this year's Oscars?) "Bowling for Columbine," a film about America's preoccupation with guns and violence, whose stellar cast includes George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

So far, the film has earned a more-than-respectable business in the American market. With a $4 million budget, its gross earning as of May 2003 has reached $30 million!

Spotlight

This has brought the genre to the spotlight. More filmmakers have started making documentaries, submitting them to festivals, hoping to land distribution deals along the way. We're listing down some festivals which specialize solely on documentary work:

Amsterdam's International Documentary Filmfest, considered the largest of its kind in the world, leads the pack. Last year, major prizes went to Steve James' "Stevie" (besting Moore's "Bowling for Columbine") and Lech Kowalski's "On Hitler's Highway," about the oldest highway in Poland, built by Hitler to transport Jews to concentration camps, where prostitutes now ply their trade.

"BASAL BANAR." In Solito's film, elders talk of the myths and origins of their island.

In the US, the Scorsese-endorsed Full Frame Documentary Filmfest, based in North Carolina, received close to 750 entries from around the world, more documentary submissions than Sundance. The fact that Full Frame's winning documentaries qualify for Academy Award consideration adds to the strong interest in the festival.

Entries

Among the directors who fielded entries were Martin Scorsese, Abbas Kiarostami, Wim Wenders, Clint Eastwood and Jonathan Demme (with his 19-years-in-the-making docu, "The Agronomist") and Grand Jury awardee, "Etre et Avoir" (To Be and To Have) by France's Nicolas Philibert.

Founder Nancy Buirsky hopes to launch an all-documentary cable channel soon, featuring the best works submitted to the festival.

Our friend Jeanne Lim has told us that a cable channel that she truly enjoyed during her recent two-month stay in the US featured Sundance winners. Let's hope these channels will find their way here. Sky and Dream, how about it?

Closer to home is Japan's Yamagata International Documentary Filmfest. The 14-year-old film festival will be held this year from Oct. 10 to 16. From 902 submissions (compared to 670 in 2001) competing for the top prize, it is heartening to note that the Philippines scored a major coup, with the selection of Auraeus Solito's "Basal Banar—Sacred Ritual of Truth" chosen as one of the 15 finalists, which include Pablo Garcia's "Fuente Alamo;" Andrey Osipov's experimental "Four Passions of the Soothsayer's Poet;" Ralf Marschallek's musical documentary, "Brass on Fire" and IDFA winners, Kowalski's "On Hitler's Highway" and James' "Stevie."

Full house

We saw Solito's "Basal Banar," when it was screened to a full house at last year's "Pelikula at Lipunan." The film is his follow up to "Impeng Negro" and the nine-minute short, "Ang Maikling Buhay Ng Apoy" (both Gawad CCP 1st prize winners).

In "Banar," the filmmaker, a descendant of an indigenous people in Mindanao, returns to his hometown in Palawan to film the daily lives and sacred rituals of its people, who were driven away at gunpoint from their homes during the Martial Law era.

Presently, the natives, still smarting from the disintegration of their lifestyles, are in the midst of an "ancestral domains" claim. In the film, elders talk of the myths and origins of their islands, forests, lakes, mountains and seas—a collection of "banar" (truths) that will serve as proof of their "claim."

The film could have benefited from tighter editing to shorten its dizzying, repetitive fast-forward roaming shots around the islands. But its images were undoubtedly powerful and unique.

Let's pray that Solito's work, despite the presence of IDFA winners James and Kowalski, will bring home the bacon this October.

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FILIPINO visitors enjoy the sights and crafts of Ho Chi Minh City.

Learning from Vietnam

By Bibsy M. Carballo

IN Vietnam, they are oblivious to the existence of F4 and "Meteor Garden," soap operas, reality TV, violence and nudity in tabloids and in movies—all of which are staple fare in the Philippines.

Preconceptions

Coming into Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), Vietnam, courtesy of Philippine Airlines and Omni Saigon Hotel, we found ourselves contending with preconceptions that caused the government ban of the musical, "Miss Saigon." We were prepared for a town of kinky bars and sex shows, muck like Bangkok, but we were initially disappointed.

In Ho Chi Minh, the business hub of Vietnam on the verge of an economic boom, residents live a no-nonsense lifestyle. Although everyone is busy making money, there is still room for the arts, media and communications.

However, unlike the democratic free enterprise system of the Philippines, Vietnam is a socialist state where the government controls everything, most especially media and the arts—anything that may contribute to the "corruption" of the minds of the people, and distract them from the straight and narrow path.

We watched Vietnam Television (VTV) shows under the state's Ministry of Culture and Information, all in the Vietnamese language. Production values are lower than what we are used to in the Philippines. At times, hosts appeared bored with their jobs on instructional shows and newscasts.

Heritage

Foreign TV programs and movies are dubbed in Vietnamese, often by a single talent for all characters! The Vietnamese fiercely guard against foreign influences that may undermine their heritage.

When told that 30 percent of viewers prefer pop music shows, the government, recognizing the impact of music on the youth (median age is 28), decided to field more musical shows—an antiseptic MTV, if you will.

Watching a popular musical aired from Hanoi one night, we were disappointed to see that the camera merely documented the staged event, with little attempt at direction for television.

In an interview, the spokesman of a student support group stated, "High-quality music television infuses youth with love for their country and humanity."

Tragedy

Watching all these efforts at ingraining patriotism and a wholesome regard for the arts, we wondered if Filipinos were better off, with our well-guarded democracy and the freest press in Asia. We looked at a populace still struggling to rise above the tragedy of the Vietnam war—uncomplaining, diligent and hardworking, most of them still using the motorbike as transport.

There is much to be desired in terms of freedom as we know it. But we also saw hordes of tourists coming in, despite the recent SARS scare, and the difficulty with the language.

We saw safety in the streets, no black market in dollars, no overcharging in taxis, the flourishing of traditional arts and handicrafts, particularly in lacquerware, gold and silver engraving; a boom in art galleries, where Vietnamese artists are making a beeline for the world market.

Stability

In December, Ho Chin Minh will host the 22nd SEA Games. Peace, stability, and cheap labor have attracted foreign investors by the hundreds. Pretty soon, Vietnam may become China's major competitor in that aspect. Nike and Reebok, Ford, Cargill, and IT companies IBM, Microsoft and Intel are making their presence felt.

And again, we wonder if it is all worth it for us, the much vaunted freedom that we use and abuse. Tourists are skipping us, despite all the Wow Philippines promos we launch. Should we learn from our neighbors—Singapore, Thailand, and now Vietnam? They hire our technocrats, teachers, caregivers, singers and musicians; we give them our expertise. But perhaps we could learn a lesson or two from them about what progress really means.

(Email author at bibsymcar@yahoo.com)

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Oscar Moreno remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S clear from Oscar Moreno's recollections that the personal ties he forged at the Sampaguita Pictures studio were very important to him. But, what about work?

He points out that, despite his happy-go-lucky image, he was in fact very busy because he was put in a lot of movies from the year he joined Sampaguita, 1946, to the time he left, 1963.

"In 'Mameng, Iniibig Kita,' directed by Gerry de Leon and scripted by Eddie Romero, I was initially cast as a farmer in love with Carmen Rosales, who was the owner of the farm. Trouble was, I didn't look the part.

"*Sabi ni* Gerry, *maski ano ang suot ko, talagang hindi ako mukhang magsasaka.* So, they were forced to adjust my character to a gentleman farmer—with a tractor!"

How was it, working with the great Gerry de Leon? "No big deal. He just showed me the blocking he wanted, and let me go."

If that's all De Leon did, why were his films so celebrated? "Because he knew all there was to know about the business. Eddie Romero learned a lot from Gerry.

"Speaking of Eddie Romero, I was closest of all to him. We understood each other. For one thing, *pareho kaming nagko*-crossword puzzle!

"Eddie directed me in four or five movies. One of them was 'May Isang Tsuper ng Taxi.' Another was 'Apoy sa Langit,' with Norma Blancaflor, Pancho Magalona and Linda Estrella.

American actress

"And, in 'Asawa Kong Amerikana,' I co-starred with the American actress, Joan Page, who made several movies here. It was scripted by Chaning Carlos. It was the first Filipino awardee, for screenplay, at the Asian Film Festival.

"Joan Page came here as a singer, a member of an American singing group. She became friendly with a lot of people, liked living and working here, and decided to stay. As chance would have it, Chaning's script needed an American actress, so she got the role.

"I was also directed by Artemio Tecson in 'Kilabot sa Makiling.' He started out as Gerry de Leon's assistant.

"Tor Villano directed me in 'Anak ng Dagat,' a movie I'm especially fond of. It was so long that it was shown in two installments! I played s fisherman in Navotas. *Magaling si* Villano, *lalo na sa* action. In those days, *kokonti lang ang mga* action directors."

Which of the many movies Oscar made at Sampaguita is he proudest of? "I've already mentioned 'Kilabot sa Makiling,' where I co-starred with Lillian Lecnardo and played a Robin Hood-type character. 'Dahil sa Ina,' with Justina David, mother of Tommy David. 'Good Morning, Professor,' directed by Olive La Torre. 'Maharlika,' by Lorenzo Tuells.

"Also, '24 na Pag-ibig' with Carmen Rosales—it featured 24 pairs of sweethearts! Mameng and I made many movies together; partly because my height suited hers. She was tall and liked wearing high-heeled shoes, so it wasn't easy finding leading men for her.

"I also co-starred in quite a number of movies with Tita Duran. As a matter of fact, *bini*-build-up *kami noon as* 'the nation's love team'! *Wala pa si* Pancho Magalona *sa* Sampaguita *noon.* In fact, *ako ang nagsabi sa mga* studio boss *na kunin nila si* Pancho—*mangyari, ka-barkada ko na siya nung araw pa.*

Character

"'Berdugo ng mga Anghel,' with Alicia Vergel. The *berdugo* was played by Tessie Martinez—her character was a *sira-ulo na pumapatay ng mga bata. Ako naman, pulis.*

"'Kanto Girl,' with Lolita Rodriguez in the title role. Lolita was a really good actress, *bigay na bigay.*

"'MN,' an outstanding Sampaguita movie. I was with Carmen Rosales, Alicia Vergel and Cesar Ramirez. Mar S. Torres directed from Pablo Gomez's script.

"'R.O.T.C.,' where Ric Rodrigo was built up. 'Baguio Cadets,' a big movie that marked Doc Perez's taking over the reins at Sampaguita.

"'Monghita,' where Gloria Romero played a woman who entered the convent; I was her boyfriend. Incidentally, *ako ang naka*-'discover' *kay* Gloria for Sampaguita. She was an extra in Nardo Vercudia's 'Dugong Bughaw,' and I found her promising. She was also one of my fans.

"So, I asked my friends at Sampaguita to give her a role, first as the maid of Alicia Vergel in a film shot in Taal, Batangas. She really did have potential—*kaya lang, payat pa siya noon.*

"'Bakas ng Lumipas'—*magkapatid kami ni* Rogelio dela Rosa. I had a challenging role: my character was blind. I was nominated for an acting award by the Famas for my performance in this film—also for 'Kilabot ng Makiling.'

MORENO. Very busy actor despite happy-go-lucky image.

Popular movie team

"Other movies I made included 'Sa Piling Mo' with Tita Duran. 'Tala sa Umaga,' where I again co-starred with Tita. It became a hit and projected us as a popular movie team. So, we did 'Dahil sa Iyo' and it also did well at the box office. 'Maharlika' was yet another one of our co-starrers. And, in 'Hele-hele...,' Marichu and Pepito Vera Perez were child actors.

'Spy Kids 3D' tops North American box office

LOS ANGELES—"Spy Kids 3D: Game Over" beat "Lara Croft, Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life," which opened in fourth place, in a weekend box office derby that pitted the two sequels against each other and the potentially Oscar-bound "Seabiscuit."

"SPY KIDS 3D." Vega (left), and Sabara (right) return for the third installment of the youth film franchise.

Final case

According to studio estimates released on Sunday, "Spy Kids," the final case of the sleuthing Cortez family, raked in $32.5 million in North American ticket sales in the three days beginning July 25.

The three-film franchise has generated $230.8 million since 2001 for Dimension Films, a division of Miramax Films. In the latest saga, the two Cortez kids travel inside a 3-D video game to capture a world-destroying villain played by Sylvester Stallone.

Miramax co-chairman Bob Weinstein credited the new sequel's strong finish, in a summer movie season that has been rough on sequels, to goodwill earned by the first two films.

"When you get the franchise right and (audiences) have such an enjoyable experience, you build a brand name," Weinstein told Reuters.

Reuters

NBC bringing back LeBlanc for 'Friends' spin-off

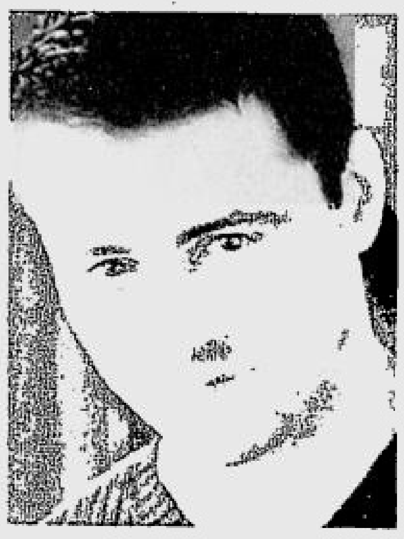
By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Matt LeBlanc will be back on NBC next year, but he'll have to make some new friends.

Deal

The network said on Thursday that LeBlanc, star of NBC's top-rated comedy, "Friends," has signed a deal to return in his own spin-off series—without his five TV cohorts—when the 10-year-old show ends its run on NBC next year.

The new half-hour program, to be called "Joey" and starring LeBlanc as his popular character Joey Tribbiani, is slated to premiere in the fall of 2004 in the 8 p.m. EST/PST Thursday time slot now occupied by "Friends." "Joey" will mark the first NBC comedy spin-off since "Cheers" gave birth to "Frasier" 11 years ago.



LEBLANC. "Over the moon" about his new deal with NBC.

The announcement by NBC president Jeff Zucker caps months of speculation about a possible afterlife for one of primetime TV's most enduring hits, and boosts the network's chances of shoring up its potent Thursday night "Must-See-TV" lineup once "Friends" leaves the air.

New show

Returning with LeBlanc for the new show will be three members of the "Friends" creative team—executive producers Kevin Bright, Scott Silveri and Shana Goldberg-Meehan.

Financial terms of LeBlanc's TV contract were not disclosed, but the new deal also calls for him to star in two feature films for Warner Bros. Pictures.

LeBlanc's previous big-screen credits have included a feature adaptation of "Lost in Space" and small parts in both "Charlie's Angels" movies, as Lucy Liu's boyfriend.

Reuters

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SATURDAY *Special*

Christopher Reeve is a superhero in the eyes of the world's disabled

By Jean Marc Mojon

TEL AVIV—Patients at Tel Hashomer rehabilitation center in Israel had no time for Superman, only for Christopher Reeve, arguably the world's most famous disabled man and, now, an ambassador for scientific research.

REEVE (right) stunned the medical world by recovering some sensation in his body.
AP

Pictures

The pictures some of the patients in this hospital near Tel Aviv have pinned up above their beds are not of the caped wonder, but of the 50-year-old, balding and wheelchair-bound paraplegic who stunned the medical world this year by recovering some sensation in his body.

"I was once told I would never move below my shoulders," Reeve told 50 patients and their families during a visit on Tuesday.

The actor, who also starred in "Deathtrap" and "Remains of the Day," was paralyzed from the neck down in 1995 after a horse riding accident.

"But I began to get motor and sensory recovery five years after the injury," he told them. "The point is that there is no such thing as conventional wisdom anymore, and no patient can be told by any doctor what the future will be."

Reeve's visit to Israel, sponsored by the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles and the foreign ministry, was eagerly awaited by many young Israelis and by one of them maybe more than others.

Correspondence

The actor's trip was prompted by his correspondence with Elad Wassa, a 25-year-old Israeli-Ethiopian who was crippled by a Palestinian suicide attack in the coastal town of Netanya in May 2002.

"You are my hero," the young man told Reeve after an emotional meeting at the Weizmann institute, which employs some of the world's leading neurology experts.

But at the Tel Hashomer hospital, the first to arrive to catch a glimpse of her idol was a 23-year-old Israeli who reads everything she can on the evolution of

CHRISTOPHER/ D3

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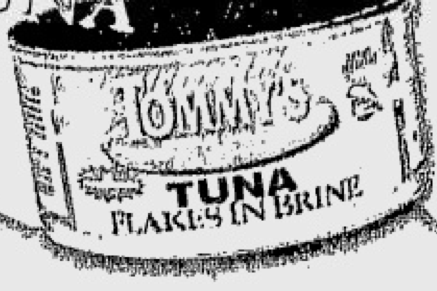

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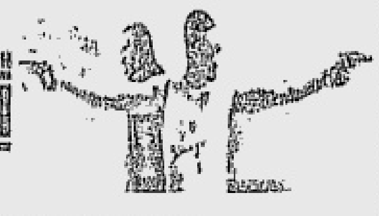

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Period and new musical films compared

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR recent piece on old musical movies has prompted some readers to sing praises to the once-popular film type, which was deemed passé for several decades, and has only lately started to stage a comeback by way of "new" musicals like "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago."

Brilliance

Aside from happily recalling the brilliance of musicals past, several readers have asked us to compare the musical films of the '50s, '60s and '70s to the more recent variety. And so, to correlate:

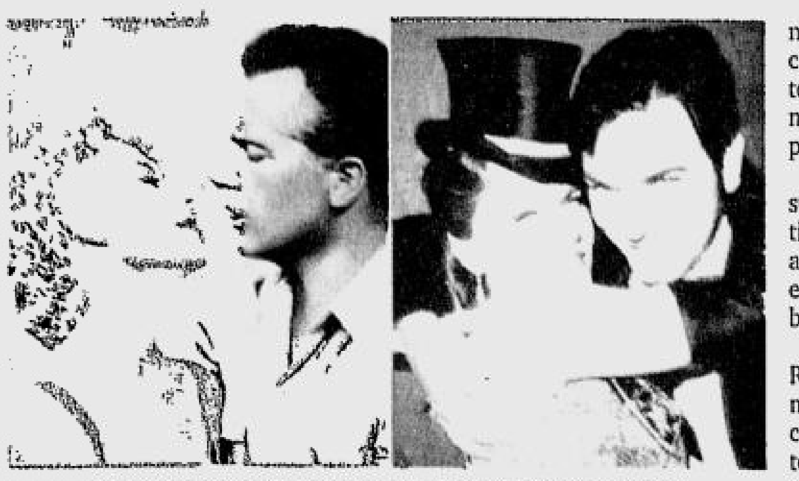
For all of their beauty and creativity, many old musical movies were faulted for being escapist entertainment. Their characters peopled a Technicolor Never-Neverland that had little in common with reality.

This was one reason why, when the world became complicated and problematic in the '80s, musicals flopped left and right, until most producers stopped making them. They were just too unreal for the all-too-real times.

Issues

Still, there were some "classic" musicals like "Showboat" and "South Pacific" that dared to tackle issues like racism and bigotry. But they were clearly outnumbered by the many all-singing and all-dancing films that focused exclusively on the light, bright and breezy side of life.

Compared to those period productions, relatively new musicals like "Chicago" and "Moulin Rouge" are edgier, tougher, and more real. "Moulin Rouge" may have concerned itself for the most part with a cabaret star-courtesan's glittering life, but it was laced through with a patina, a strong aftertaste of pain due to her exploitation by members of the upperclass.


"SOUTH PACIFIC" (left) and "Moulin Rouge" differ in musical artistry and visual dynamics.

Behind the production's prodigiously brilliant visuals and visually ornate production numbers was a heart beating for the story's lovelorn victim.

Context

For its part, "Chicago" focused on two convicted killers, played by Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renee Zellweger, but tried to appreciate their crimes within the context of the legal system and mass media's exploitative use of people's misery, for commercial ends.

Clearly, the new musicals are striving to mirror the more realistic view of life prevalent today, and this change of tack may help explain why musicals are coming back into favor.

A second shift is "Moulin Rouge's" use of songs not originally written for it. This runs counter to period musicals' insistence on original songs, and hints at a dilution of intensity that could compromise the artistic integrity of today's musicals.

Commercial appeal

Well-known songs are now used in musicals to pump up their commercial appeal, but this should be more the exception than the rule.

Third, period musicals used stars with great voices, or had their leads' voices dubbed by outstanding singers, but both "Moulin Rouge" and "Chicago" cast stars who didn't sing all that well.

Once again, commercial appeal has won over genuine musical talent. If this preference persists, new musicals may have a hard time attaining the artistic level of musicals produced decades ago.

But we must end with a balancing factor: today's musicals are more visually dynamic than the previous generation's productions, and this has made them click with today's more visually-savvy viewers.

This tips the scales back in favor of the new musicals. But a lot clearly has to be done before musical films regain the status and popularity they enjoyed 20 or 30 years ago.

Film festival to celebrate Mother Teresa's beatification hits snag

CALCUTTA—Organizers of a film festival to mark the beatification of Mother Teresa are complaining about the inclusion of two controversial films in a festival to honor her rapid rise to sainthood.

Rough weather

"The film festival has run into rough weather. We are not sure about holding it," festival organizer Father C.M. Paul told AFP.

Missionaries of Charity, the order of nuns founded by Mother Teresa, and Bishop Salvador Lobo, a member of the Diocesan team shepherding her candidacy for sainthood, said the films distorted the work she did.

They have written a letter to ask the Archbishop of Calcutta, Lucas Sircar, to exclude "In The Name of God's Poor" and "Hell's Angel."

"They are far from the truth on Mother's life, work and belief. We, from the Church side, cannot screen these films," Bishop Lobo said.

"I know what the Mother felt about the films when they came out. I thought Calcutta was honoring her at the time of beatification. If these two films are screened, we would be dishonoring her."

MOTHER Teresa didn't approve the script of "In the Name of God's Poor."

"Mother Teresa: In the Name of God's Poor," produced in 1997 by French author Dominique Lapierre, has been criticized by the Missionaries of Charity, which said the writer sensationalized the nun's life, and refused to make changes to what was supposed to be an authorized biography.

Script

In a letter dated July 20, Bishop Lobo said Mother Teresa had not approved the script of the film.

"Hell's Angel" is based on the 1997 book, "The Missionary Position: Mother Teresa in Theory and Practice," by US-based British author and columnist, Christopher Hitchens, who breaks with orthodoxy by questioning the work of the Missionaries of Charity.

Hitchens faulted Mother Teresa for using her political clout on behalf of conservative causes and accepting money from dodgy sources, and contended that her work was focused on the dying, and made little real effort to improve the bleak circumstances behind Calcutta's public health woes.

The Archbishop of Calcutta, however, has said he found no reason for withdrawing the films.

Screening

"Nuns of the order, founded by Mother Teresa, should watch the two films and then disapprove their screening," Father Paul said.

The festival will also feature "Something Beautiful for God," the first film made about Mother Teresa, in which British cynic-turned-convert, Malcolm Muggeridge, profiled the nun's devotion to Calcutta's wretched.

The 1969 film for the BBC and Muggeridge's later book on Mother Teresa catapulted her onto the world stage. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

The film festival is set to begin in the run-up to beatification celebrations.

Mother Teresa's beatification—the fastest such elevation in history—means she can be declared a saint if a "miracle" can be attributed to her.

Calcutta is planning to set up a giant screen in a city park to broadcast live Oct. 19 from Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, where Pope John Paul II will preside over Mother Teresa's last step before sainthood. *AFP*

Christopher Reeve is a superhero . . .

From page D1

Reeve's health, and even set up a website with links to related articles.

"At the age of 15, I was affected by a rare syndrome which touched my nervous system and left me quadriplegic. Half a year later, Christopher Reeve was wounded and I identified with his situation," she said.

"I tried to contact him ever since because we became like soulmates, I felt our lives were developing in parallel."

Few paraplegics who suffer similar injuries could sustain the level of activity which has been Reeve's, but the former actor, who chairs a scientific research institute in the United States, shared experiences and tips to give hope to other disabled people.

"Christopher Reeve really is Superman, not because of what he did on the silver screen, but because of what he is doing now," said Dan Berk, a representative from the consulate in Los Angeles.

Moral authority

"He has full days and has a life, and his visit is also important because he has enormous moral authority."

Calling for collaboration between scientists around the world, Reeve said: "I hope politics and religion will never interfere in this progress." *AFP*

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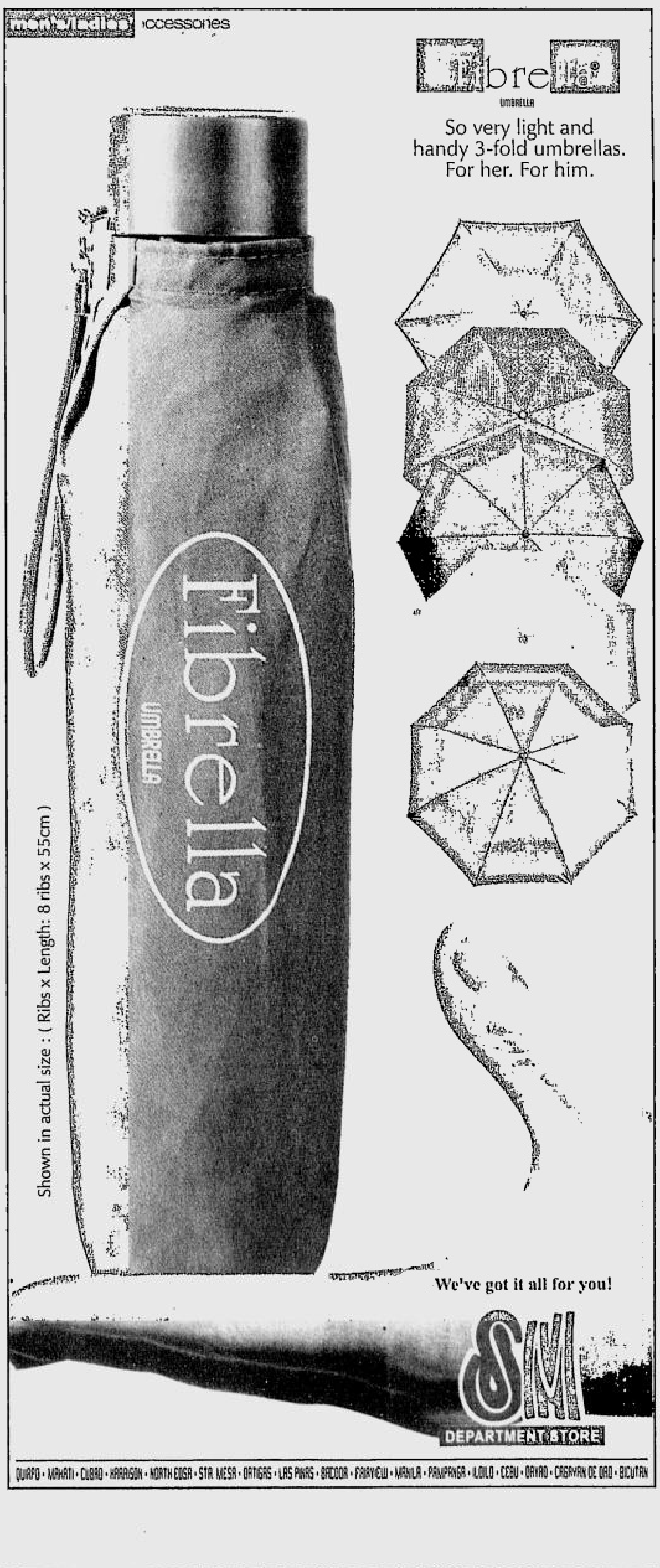
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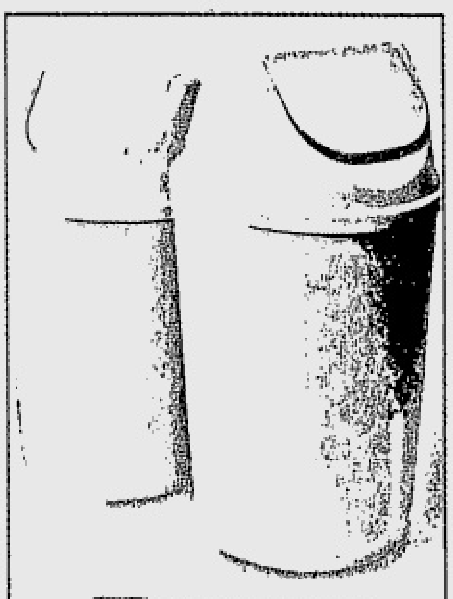

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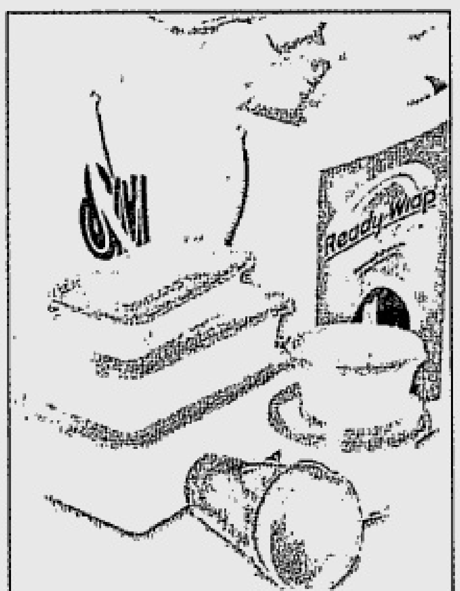

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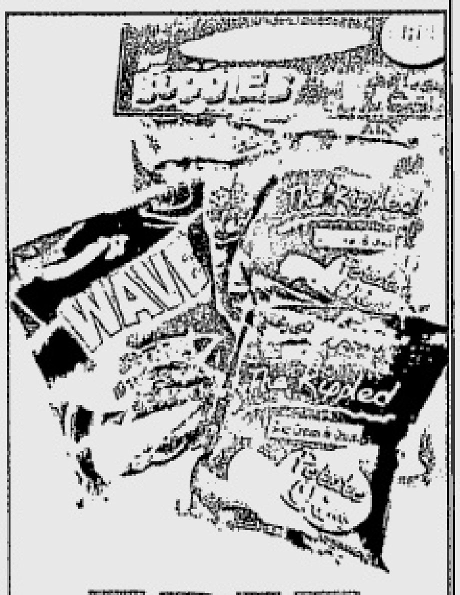

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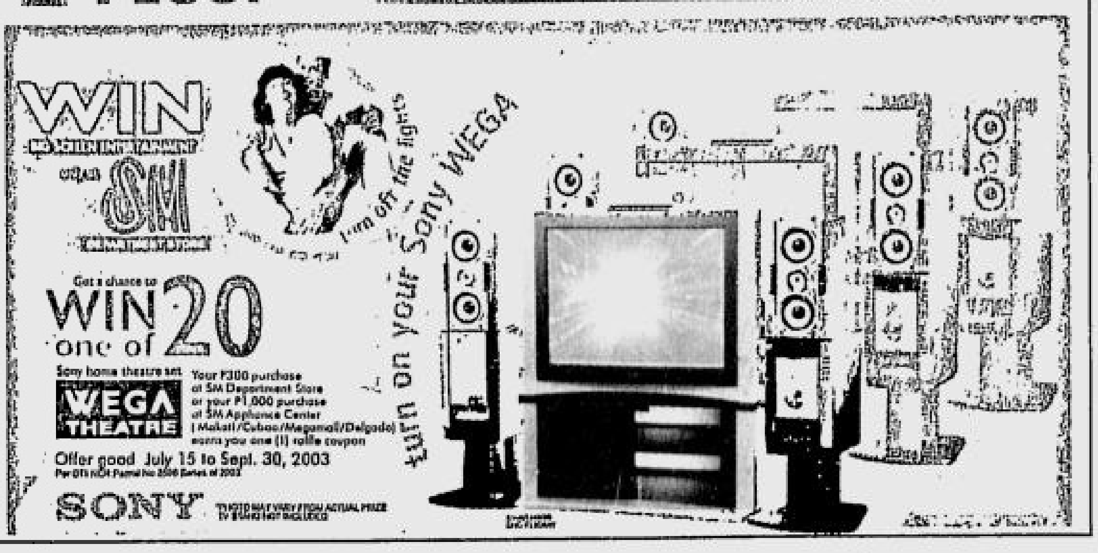

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SATURDAY Special

Bruce Lee phenomenon still alive and kicking

BRUCE Lee fan Frankie Lau shows off two action figures and a large poster of his idol in full flail.

AP

HONG KONG—Before Jackie Chan, before Jet Li, there was Bruce Lee.

When Chan and Li rose to the top as martial arts stars in Hollywood, they were on a path already paved by the man whose name became synonymous with kung fu.

Legend

Lee died 30 years ago at just 32. He had barely become an international icon, but his early death enhanced the legend—and he still enjoys the loyal support of fans worldwide.

The Bruce Lee phenomenon is alive and kicking. His movies still sell, moving along with technology as videocassettes made way for DVDs. Internet shrines abound, showing his best quotes and his smoothest moves—with everything from fond remembrances to conspiracy theories about his death.

Lee died of an edema, or swelling of the brain, in the home of a Hong Kong actress. The coroner described it as "death by misadventure," fueling speculation that drugs may have been involved.

Fans in Hong Kong are using the anniversary to repeat their wishes for official recognition of Lee—such as a museum display—in the territory where he spent much of his childhood and got his break in the movies.

Limited resources

It's not likely to happen anytime soon. The Home Affairs Department said that resources are limited, and that while the government values Lee's importance, a memorial "is not a priority."

"Is it really that urgent?," asked spokesman Varren Lee.

Fans fear that the government and most ordinary people hold the mistaken impression that Lee was mainly just good at beating up his foes—a narrow view that ignores his philosophy, humanitarianism, and a respect for life's underdogs that marked his early career.

Recognizing the potential for making money, private enterprise has done better by Lee's memory.

A wax statue appears in Hong Kong's Madame Tussaud's museum. It seems likely that Lee will be featured in a planned "Avenue of Stars" showcasing Hong Kong's film industry, although organizers of the privately funded venture have declined to say which stars will be in the waterfront display. *AP*

AM/FM

Lively exchange on the airwaves

By Rito P. Asilo

OVER the weekend, the airwaves were abuzz with nothing but the latest display of disgruntlement at the country's state of affairs. So, all we heard on the AM band were politicians and media men squeezing their way to the forefront of the soldiers' siege of classy Oakwood at Glorietta. Good choice of venue to get holed up in, if you ask us.

Ultimatum

GLOVER. Sounds like a huskier Joan Osborne.

We were equally alarmed, and a bit amused, by what we heard on AM's Radyo ng Bayan dzRB (738 kHz) when we tuned in around 4 p.m., an hour before GMA's first ultimatum for the soldiers to "go back to the barracks" for spanking. No, it's not that we are trivializing their complaints—it's just that after repeated "Edsa" stagings, the significance of these uprisings tends to taper off for us.

Amid the able anchorship of hosts Miles Cruz and Alan Allanigue, we couldn't help but chuckle at what we overheard in the background of a live report: *"Anak ng tinapay!" "Sir! Naiipit ako!"*

We were sure, though, that people had a fun time getting distracted by the latest ringtone from a reporter's mobile phone when it went off during their pushing and shoving. The song? "Meteor Garden's" theme! Better this than getting "shell-shocked" by another reporter's repeated ramblings as to his whereabouts—that he was on a tight watch just off the lobby of Hotel *Entercon*!

Impasse

Five hours later, we got so desensitized by the impasse that we decided to shift to FM for our fix of saccharine-sweet pop music.

Our next stop brought us to ABC's Kool 106 dwET FM, hosted by DJ Easy Albert (Sundays, 9-11 p.m.). It is not so much the concept of the show, which is no great shakes, that attracts avid listeners to the program: Listeners are given a "topic for the night" *("Dapat mo*

LIVELY/ E2

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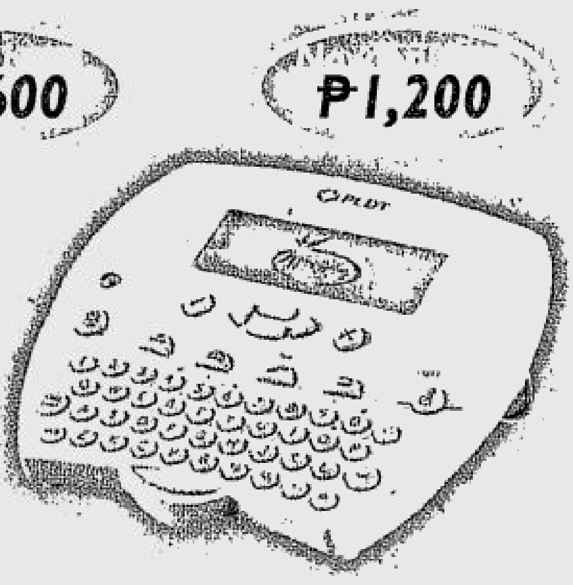

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2117 Series of 2003

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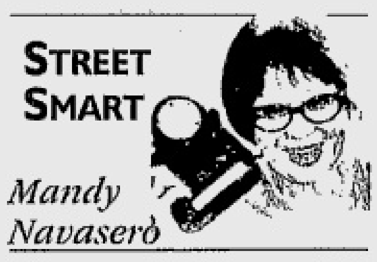
EVA helps Aetas at Mt. Pinatubo



STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

JENNIFER Wallum founded the Entrepreneur Volunteer Assistance Charity Foundation Inc. (EVA) in 1991, when Mt. Pinatubo erupted, displacing the Aetas. Jenny helped the Aetas with training and loan programs, educational scholarships, and adult literacy and livelihood projects.

Scholarship fund

Jenny is forever thinking of ways to help the Aetas of Mt. Pinatubo to help themselves, and is requesting good Samaritans to donate to a scholarship fund for Aeta college students, a Livelihood Micro Loan Fund, a fund to purchase seeds and trees, and for transport to attend Aeta livelihood training programs.

Donations can pay for these items: P60 — literacy books in the Aeta language for one student. P600 —gardening tools for home garden cultivation of herbs and vegetables. P1,500 —a tabletop pottery wheel for shaping clay from riverbeds. P2,750 — three sleeping bags for Aeta guides to use in taking tourists to the Mt. Pinatubo crater.

P6,000 — three dome tents for the same tourism projects. P10,000 — lahar block-making equipment and training to use Pinatubo's lahar to build homes. P8,000 — a carabao cart, the favored transport in Pinatubo's lahar valleys.

Class

P8,000 —rulers, pencils, scissors, erasers and notebooks for a class of 30 Aeta children. P16,000 — an adult carabao to pull plows, carabao carts, and to provide manure for organic farming. P30,000 — the allowance of a 3A 3R (literacy) Activator for one year, helping upgrade the literacy levels of adults.

P40,000 — a primitive kiln for an Aeta village and a small native workshop. P80,000 —a simple one-room schoolhouse of mainly indigenous materials.

A 3A 3R Activator will be the literacy instructor. The donor names the school. And P120,000 will build a two-room schoolhouse.

Donations may be coursed through EVA at 1665 Dasmarinas ave., Dasmarinas Village, 1220 Makati City, or call Jenny Wallum tel no. 816-0132.

Kabuhayan Livelihood and Trade Fair

On another front, the Congressional Spouses' Kabuhayan Livelihood and Trade Fair is on at Megamall today and tomorrow. This is a must-see showcase of the best products of each of the country's congessional districts displayed at Megatrade Hall II, 5th level of Megamall's Bldg. B.

TARUKAN SETTLEMENT. One of EVA's livelihood projects.

Lively exchange . . .

From page E1

bang pigilan ang damdamin sa taong minamahal kung meron na siyang iba?"), and they can request for a favorite song and greet away to their heart's content!

Other than having a voice that's easy on the ears, what makes DJ Albert popular with listeners is his hearty, amiable way with fans. Even when you feel a subtext of tension in his voice, courtesy of a particularly ditzy caller who keeps asking him to repeat the question, he manages to remain polite.

Choice of songs

The choice of songs that night transcended the "Spaghetti Song" types. Some of the songs featured were Westlife's "World of Our Own;" John Mayer's "Your Body is A Wonderland" and Edwin McCain's "I'll Be." But we

LIVELY/ E3

Young stars unwind at Dream Zone

JOHN Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo, who play star-crossed lovers Yuri and Katrina, respectively, in the soap opera "Kay Tagal Kang Hintay," recently unwound after their busy taping schedule at the newly refurbished Dream Zone.

Indoor amusement

The fully air-conditioned indoor amusement center, located at the third level of Robinsons Place in Ermita Manila, offered them an alternative way of unwinding.

John Lloyd first tried his favorite arcade game, Daytona USA Sega Rally. Next stops were the Shooting Range, Wind Rider, Amazing Racers and Pair Match Air Hockey. Then, he and Bea sang to their hearts' content at one of the center's 10 private videoke rooms.

Dream Zone has announced its partnership with three of the country's biggest video arcade operators, G-Box, Quantum and Flash Back.

It offers 400 game machines, 27 kiddie and adult rides, videoke rooms, redemption booths, open videoke machines, carnival games, retail shops and kiosks.

The 6,700-square-meter amusement center is open daily. The amusement park is open Mondays to Fridays from 12 noon to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Video Arcade is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free. Call 302-0084 and 302-0076.

ALONZO and Cruz at the amusement center's redemption booth.

Televiewers speak up

By Nestor U. Torre

AT a TV forum recently, concerned members of the audience shared their thoughts about the local television scene, both present and future. Let's hope our industry people are paying attention. After all, if audience members are, as the TV networks say, their "*kapuso*" and "*kapamilya*," their opinions should be heard and valued, right?

Dismay

First off, some viewers expressed dismay at the boorish behavior of some on-camera TV people. They suggested that the best way for TV talents to behave would be for them to remind themselves that they are guests in viewers' homes, so they should mind their manners and respect the standards of behavior that their hosts prefer.

All too often, TV talents behave on-camera like the studio were their own home, so they are as slovenly, lazy, foul-mouthed and boorish as they are in real life, away from the cameras.

They think they're being natural, spontaneous and honest, but viewers don't really care for such "honesty," because it offends their sense of propriety and runs counter to the values they cherish.

Sensibilities

Viewers are particularly protective of the sensibilities of their children, and resent it when TV people assault their innocent eyes and minds with behavior or language that is too mature for young viewers to properly assimilate and handle.

The trouble with the TV set is its being such a constant presence in viewers' living rooms and bedrooms that it becomes practically invisible. So, parents are often oblivious of its potentially negative influence on their vulnerable children.

As a result, they become concerned only after they see unsavory changes in the actuations, statements and attitudes of the minors in their homes. By that time, however, it's difficult to undo the negative effects of irresponsible television, so parents feel frustrated and resentful.

Homes

That's why viewers urge that, before the situation goes from bad to worse, TV people should change their attitude and learn to respect viewers' homes, to which they have been given entry by parents who hope that they will abide by the rules of those households.

Trouble is, television has become such a powerful medium that some TV talents feel they can do no wrong, and shouldn't be dictated to or criticized by anybody. It's time, therefore, for TV talents to truly believe in what they've been saying in network blurbs, that their televiewers' welfare is paramount in their list of priorities.

Viewers' rights

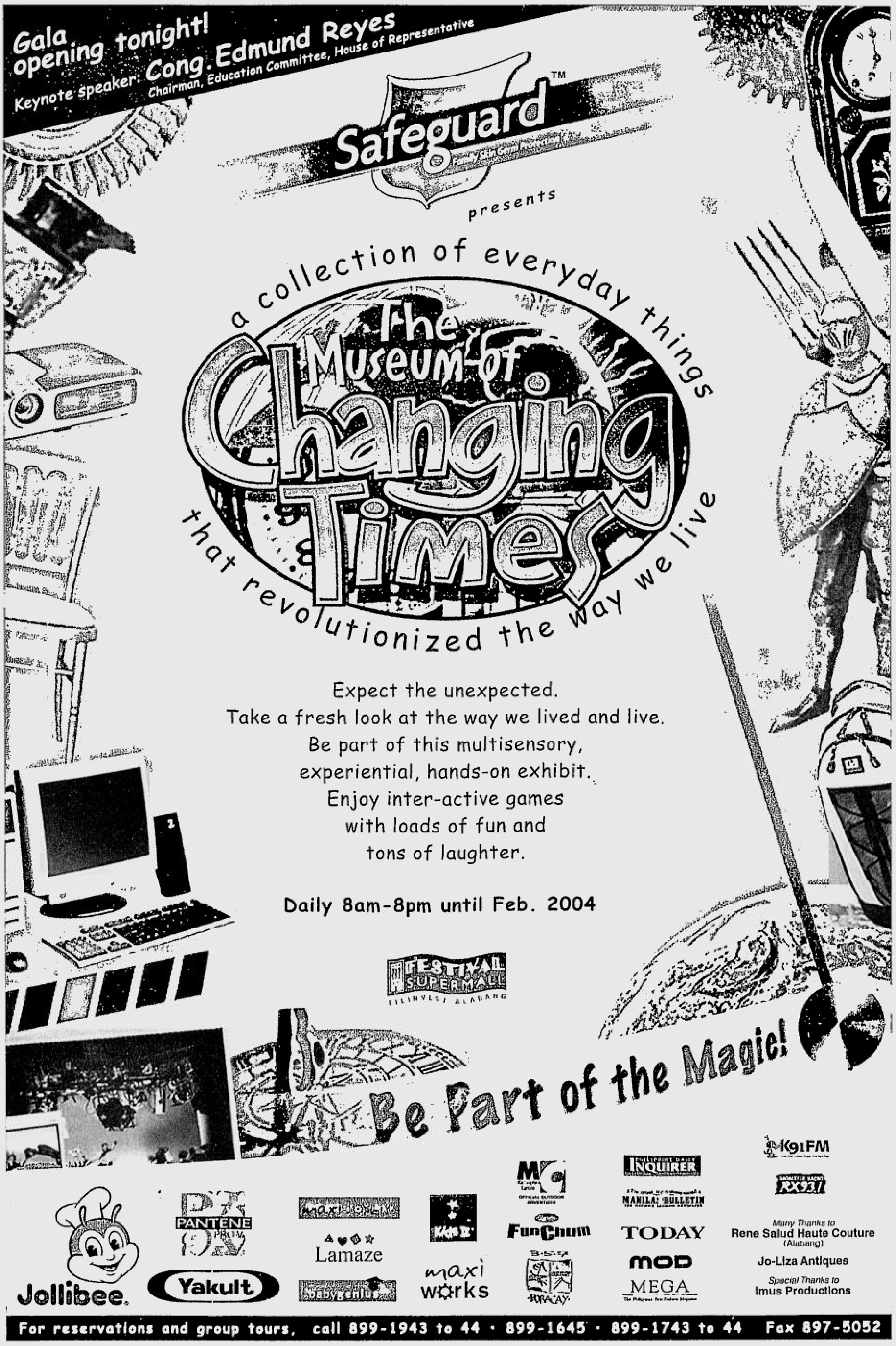
The fact that so much material shown on television disrespects viewers' rights indicates that some TV people don't really think much about televiewers. Because TV is so powerful, they feel that they can manipulate their viewers every which way, that they can come up with any kind of show they choose, and viewers will automatically watch and love them.

In a sense, they're right, because the ratings show that some of the most lazily-produced and disreputable shows rate highest with viewers.

Viewing choices

But other televiewers are becoming more judicious and demanding in their viewing choices. They have found their voice and are disseminating their views and criticisms in the mass media. So, it's only a matter of time before more viewers will refuse to be manipulated and taken for granted by the all-powerful, self-styled gods in some television networks.

TV people should listen to viewers and learn from them, while there's still time. Message delivered, loud and clear.



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New film leaders may be in for a rough time

By Nestor U. Torre

MARTINEZ. Wants to institute reforms at the Film Academy of the Philippines.

OUR recent column on the Filipino film industry's new leaders continues to elicit responses from readers. They generally express optimism that the changes in leadership will result in much-needed reforms that will redound to the welfare of our film workers, and lead to the production of better movies that the country can be proud of.

Members

Some members of the movie industry are not quite as sanguine, however. They congratulate the new leaders who have been put in place by President Arroyo (Laurice Guillen at the Film Development Council of the Philippines; Leo Martinez at the Film Academy of the Philippines, and Boots Anson-Roa at Mowelfund and the NCCA's Cinema Committee)—but they believe that they could be in for a rough time.

They point out that a number of important people, or personalities close to some important people, were after the FDCPI chairmanship that finally went to Laurice Guillen, so they think that some of those people could make it difficult for the FDCPI to succeed.

In the case of Leo Martinez, the new FAP secretary general, he wants to institute reforms in the academy and the way that it chooses the winners of the annual FAP film awards, so the entrenched power brokers who have run things so far may not to give up their perks without a fight.

Reform agenda

Boots Anson-Roa may have an easier time of it because the groups she heads aren't directly in the line of fire, so to speak. But she could also be in for some flak if she supports the other institutions' reform agenda.

Basically, so the pragmatic logic goes, old industry leaders who are used to running the show won't readily give up their power posts, despite the fact that the new leaders are presidential appointees.

At the very least, they could adopt a passive wait-and-see stance, or machinate behind the scenes; at worst, they could oppose all reformist moves and refuse to give up an inch of turf without an all-out battle.

In such a combative situation, the key factor would be the president's support. If she come out vigorously and decisively on the side of her new appointees, as she should, that could prompt the opposition to cooperate.

If she's more equivocal in her response and support, as she's been in the past months, the situation could become messy.

New appointees

We trust that the president will come out strongly and clearly in support of her new appointees, so they can fulfill the reform agenda that she and Congress have set out for them.

Film people who believe that the industry is sick and in trouble trust that the atmosphere can be decisively cleared, so that those much-needed reforms can be put in place. Similarly, viewers who want to see the production of better and more responsible Filipino movies hope that the new leaders get the support and funding they need to do a good job. It's about time!

Our own take on this is that movie people and viewers shouldn't stop at hoping and trusting, but go out of their way to support the film industry's new leaders with the same vigor that they expect the president to manifest. Watching from the sidelines simply won't do. In the crisis situation that local movies finds themselves in, everybody has to make a firm commitment, and act on it.

Perfect *ensaymadas*

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SINCE the early years, there has always been a competition for the best *ensaymada* in town. Every so often, a new version comes out and attention is focused on it.

Gift

Hizon's bakery had one of the first good ones. Then came others like Ms Oledan. Problem was, not everyone had access to their goodies because they were only made for friends. Other people got *ensaymadas* as a gift from Ms Oledan, and somehow, I was lucky enough to have tasted them. They were huge and unbelievably delicious!

Later on, I tried the tiny ones made by Ms Andy Cailao, mother of chef Rox of Katre restaurant. Tita Naty of Bel Air also offered her delicious, giant *ensaymadas*. But after many busy Christmas seasons (orders peaked during Christmas), Tita Naty decided to discontinue selling her heaven-sent *ensaymadas*.

Still, there are many bakers out there who do it for love rather than profit. Another good one recommended by foodie Nancy Reyes is from La Vista, Quezon City. The taste and size were impressive, but I found it too complicated to order from them.

Affordable

Then came those that were mass-produced by Niño Muhlach's family. Cheloy Muhlach created great, sweet buns that were made affordable for the *masa*. Her current brand is called Quickmelt, which boasts of different toppings, like, *ube, mongo*, etc.

Sometimes, it can be confusing to decide which *ensaymada* tastes best. But at the moment, I prefer one that was made famous by word-of-mouth, recommended to me by a badminton buddy.

Monet Ferry and Liliana Desini raved about it, so, I got the phone number and off I went to place my order. We call this version "Cunanan," sweet buns worth breaking your diet for.

These moist *ensaymadas* come in regular sizes, and are neatly packed. But best of all, they taste heavenly! Topped with grated *queso de bola*, they are the perfect *ensaymadas*. Super *sarap*!

For orders, call Ms Cunanan at tel. nos. 631-0798/ 632-9967. E-mail me for suggestions or new discoveries. Sandydaza@shaw.ca.

Happy eating!

Lively . . .

From page E2

particularly enjoyed TaTu's cover to TV's "Charmed" theme, "How Soon is Now" and "Thinking Over," from the "Testimony" CD of Dana Glover, whose voice sounds like a huskier Joan Osborne.

There were OPM tunes, too.

Sarah Geronimo's cover of Celine Dion's "To Love You More" was popular. "Star for a Night" winner Geronimo sings the song well, but the problem is, she sounds just like Dion, complete with the Canadian chanteuse's vocal stylings, affectations and the Dion *hagod*! Can't our singers do anything original anymore?

Amusing night

Similarly, what made for a most amusing night were the uncensored exchanges between the host and his listeners. He rompishly reassured them that there were no wrong answers to the topic. To a tittery female caller, he said, *"Huwag kang mahiya, hindi kami nangangagat, puwera na lang kung gusto mong magpakagat…"* Tickled pink, the girl giggled all through the conversation: "I'm so *nerbus*! Hi hi hi hi! *Kumusta din sa pinsan kong si* Caress*—yung parang sa kyutiks!* Good *ebning din sa inyo—ano nga po ang pangalan nyo* (asking the DJ)? *At* hello *din sa aking lola, pero natutulog na kasi siya ngayon e! Hi hi hi hi!*"

Surely, it was more diverting to listen to her than to second-guess what those classy soldiers at Oakwood could be up to next.

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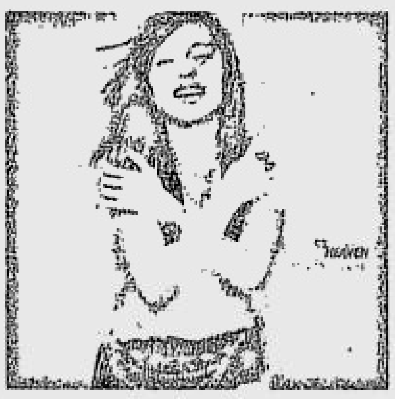
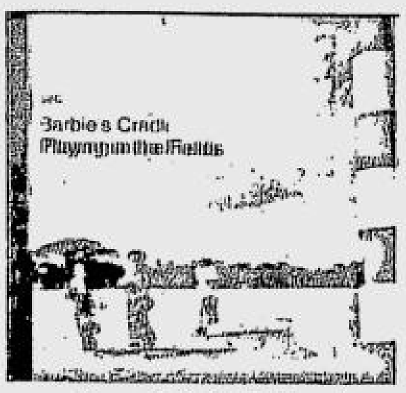


Loving You
Nina

stkindaacoustic
a.k.a.

I Don't Wanna Sing
Rockwell Ryan

Do I Need A Reason
D'Sound



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SATURDAY Super
Contributing Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

Don't hate us coz we're young

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

MY good friends and I bussed it across the American West for 16 hours early this year. We owe our lives to oceans of beer, the washrooms at Denny's, and a sporadic choice of travel music. I had been on a few road trips before, but never with a mob of thirty-odd university kids jamming out of winter exam freeze.

Occasionally drowned out by a steady rotation of '80s heavy metal and shamelessly commercial rap, our conversations ran the track from shitty McJobs at the mall to Joe Millionaire's greasy looks. Among the chunks that stood out:

1) Martha Stewart's vast knowledge of organically grown tomatoes won't get her dates in jail. Then again, who knows?

2) Our bus driver looks eerily like Dr. Phil, but he's, like, British.

3) Huge pimples on Caucasians can look like gunshot wounds.

Don't get me wrong. There were moments of lucidity jumbled up with the boorishness. On my 63rd drunken one-hand push-up, it hit me: the world we live in right now was wonderfully seamless and that this stinky Greyhound bus was packed with some of the most brilliant young people in the world. The trigger? We kicked around questions about our accomplishments, goals, dreams, and fears.

Jenn, a good friend who's Chinese on her dad's side and Polish on her mom's, wondered about raising money to buy 200 wheelchairs

DON'T HATE US/ F2

What was hip in '93 and what's at the tip in '03? Take a look

SONA, not sauna

A week in a life less ordinary

On Little Twin Stars, coup plots and shaking the President's hand

By Natalia Diaz

IN a recent attempt to clean up my pigsty of a room, I unearthed my very first diary, a a pink, Little Twin Stars journal with scented pages.

There it all was—the chronicles of my world as a 10-year-old. I had penned in childish script the TV shows I saw every morning and what I ate for breakfast, down to the jam I spread on my toast. I had written about the day I lost my slippers in a mud puddle. And then, somewhere in between those pastiches of mundane details, I had written about the first Edsa revolution.

Imagine the contrast: Kiki and Lala's cartoon-ish little faces scribbled over with words like "coup" and "revolution," and simple drawings of the tanks and soldiers I had seen up close for the first time in my life.

Now that I am writing on a bigger sheet of paper, for a readership of more than one, I find it amusing that not much has changed, not even the fact that I couldn't draw a decent stick figure if my life depended on it. I realize that I have witnessed a hero's assassination, taken to the streets in two revolutions that toppled corrupt leaders, held my breath during countless coup attempts and, just last week, chalked up another attempted mutiny to my list.

To think that I am only in my twenties!

It's all part of being born in a theater of the absurd, growing up in the Philippines. Having sat at the dinner table where my father hammered into our heads the importance of principles over power, and the unshakeable mantra: *"Hindi na puwede ang puwede na."* At that dinner table many years ago, I shuddered as my mother recounted her experience of hugging a ballot box as menacing goons brandished firearms in her face.

Last night I was once again immersed in fiery discussions about the travails of our republic, with my younger brother who is addicted to the opinion pages section of our daily newspaper. In essence, perhaps the one change I know is that now, I down hope savored with the last *subo* of rice with Coke Light, not Pop Cola.

Laughter pill

Another thing that has hardly changed

A WEEK/ F2

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SMART

Don't hate us . . .

From page F1

to send to Vietnam this November. Godwin and Carly came up with a plan to drag everyone into joining their project with the Ronald McDonald House, a charity that helps children who are down on their luck. Our token young entrepreneur, Brodie, took a pause from drafting another business plan and shared his insights on Habitat for Humanity.

When my turn to rock the floor came, and recounted how I taught English in Colombia for a year, and that now, there were Colombian teens who understood the intricacies of "American Pie" without the aid of subtitles. I gave the lowdown on my volunteer work with Unicef and my involvement with an anti-racism youth group. As the peanut gallery cued the violins, I finally spilled how immortal I felt that day and how complete I believed I was, having experienced most of the world by age 23.

Being young rocks.

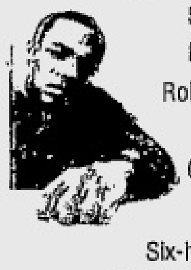
From the top of my head, I really can't think of anything that would push me to scowl for more than a minute, feel like an underdog, or slam people I hardly know. Gossip is for bitter crows!

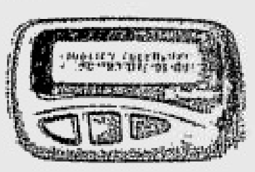
After all, I've got great friends and family, I'm in the best shape of my life, and my mind has never been clearer. The Ataris' touch-up of Bryan Adams' classic "The Boys of Summer" weighs up my current mood quite exquisitely, with Mr. Reds vs. DJ Skribble's "Everybody Come On" a close second.

The planet is youthful again and from my window, our generation never had it so good. We're team players but not afraid to fly solo. We're outspoken but not brash. When a door closes, we pick the lock. Borders are melting away and almost everyone is an upbeat global soul. There are no why's, only why not's.

Super! hit parade

ONCE in a great while, the sun beats down, the ground swells, and the world gives birth to a new breed of non-jaded freestylers. The greediness and seediness that marked the 1980s and the blue-collar tedium of the slacker generation have all but gone. Now, the world is abuzz with hope and youthful exuberance, much like the current Pepsi X commercial. What was hip in '93 and what's at the tip in '03? Take a look.





1993	The Good Stuff	2003
Andy Warhol's	Sharp Rag	Rag Radar
Kurt and Courtney	It Rock Royalty	Gwen and Gavin
Seattle, USA	Creative Hotbed	Your own mind
The Celestine Prophecy	The Big Book	Harry Potter V: The Order of the Phoenix
Toddlers	Olsen Twins	Mini-moguls
Backpacking in Europe	Ideal Holiday	A year abroad anywhere
Melissa Joan Hart on Nickelodeon's "Clarissa"	Teen Tart	Hilary Duff on Disney's "Lizzie McGuire"
Wayne's World 2	Smash Sequel	X-Men United
Michael Jordan, Chicago Bulls	Sports Hero	LeBron James,Cleveland Cavaliers
Super NES	Game On	Sony PS2
Versace	High-end denim	Rogan
Dr. Dre	Rap God	50 Cent
Grunge	Fashion Statement	A sexed-up body
SonyDiscman	Music Sounds Better with You	Apple iPod
Messy dreads	Hair	Moppy layers
Robinson's Galleria	Mall of the Moment	Greenbelt 3
Nonie	MTV Asia Babe	Denise
Cross Colours	Label to Love	A&F
Tag Heuer	Tick Tock	TechnoMarine
Six-holedDoc Marten's (the more beat up, the better)	Pound the Pavement	Absolutely anything old school (the whiter, the better)
Murphy Brown	Glued to the Tube	The Amazing Race 4
"Fly!"	Talk This Way	"Off the chain!"
What do I do with my life?	Memo to Self	How do I end hate and discrimination?
Lollapalooza	Hot Ticket	Stripped/Justified
Pagers	Take a Message	Phones with MMS features
Whoomp! There It Is	In a Nutshell	This Is The Remix

Be a bohemian in 4 easy steps

OUT THE WINDOW

Tats Diaz

ONE night in a favorite and obscure little hideaway tucked within the walls of old Manila, I got a really good laugh out of an amusing scenario.

Three young girls dressed to the nines in Coco Chanel-esque little black dresses and strappy high heels, were sitting on soft pillows strewn on the cobblestone floor of the bar. They had ordered a bottle of commercial absinthe and were now clinking their filled glasses in a toast.

What amused me was not the sight of these polished chicks seated Indian-style on the stone floor. Neither was it the glaring fact that they stood out like freshly-coiffed poodles amidst the usual crowd of dread-locked singers, dyed tees-clad artists and taciturn incense sellers. It was their proud declaration as they raised their glasses: "*Viva la vie boheme!*"

Apparently, all it takes now is a sip of absinthe to feel a sense of solidarity with the bohemians of the Latin Quarter in Paris of the 18th century, as portrayed with cinematographic panache in "Moulin Rouge." I guess if there's one unfavorable outcome of the phenomenal success of the Broadway musical, "Rent," a modern take on the classic Puccini opera, "La Boheme," it is the careless propagation of the term "bohemian" as understood only in its shallowest sense. You quit your job because you can't take the corporate 9-to-5 grind, you're being bohemian. You pass up your Gap polo for the night in lieu of *ukay-ukay* funk, you're bohemian. You decide not to turn on your cell phone for the day, my God, you are the biggest bohemian in these parts!

It's all so romantic, if you think about bohemianism in all its Hollywood-glamorized imagery: struggling, young artistic rogues swaying to the strums of their own sitar, festooning themselves with baubles, donning "shabby chic" way before Rachel Ashwell of the Lifestyle Channel coined the phrase, exhaling clouds of smoke between sips of hallucinogenic concoctions.

Then there are their legacies embodied in works of art and literature, offspring of their creative energies channeled into ventures ruled by none but themselves. In that sense, who wouldn't want to be tagged as a bohemian? Let me rephrase that, who wouldn't want to be identified as someone uber-cool and unaffected by the conventions of society?

How it all began

In 18th century Europe, packs of nomadic gypsies from Romania travelling through Bohemia (currently the Czech Republic) were granted protection by the Bohemian royalty then, who tolerated their carefree lifestyle.

These gypsies came to be known as "La Boheme," and they in fact enjoyed some degree of renown in Western Europe at that time. Eventually, many of these gypsies, comprising mostly of musicians, painters, poets and students, wound up in the dingy alleys of Paris, propagating a café culture that sought to encourage people to thresh out beauty and truth amid the corruption of the times. They became infamous for advocating a hedonistic lifestyle, manifested in the heedless use of drugs and alcohol, which they deemed catalysts for creative expression. The Bohemians broadcasted their leftist ideologies in the streets of Paris through their creative, flamboyant works in the forms of cabarets, posters and magazines.

Today of course, over two centuries and two world wars later, the term "bohemian" is used to describe free-spirited, liberal-minded people, usually with artistic inclinations. Yet I think that as a by-product of living in a world moved by pop culture and flashy, Hollywood-fabricated perceptions, I think that the general fascination is more about the image of bohemianism and not about its essence. In other words, it's worshipping the statue and not the saint. Dare I say that true bohemianism is more of an attitude than a physical projection? It is more of an unrelenting hold on convictions—against mainstream thought, promoting a lust for inspiration through adventure, and a desire to make today different from yesterday—wrapped up in bohemianism's four tenets of love, truth, beauty and freedom.

Thus, in a sense, I truly believe that Bohemia is not dead, and that at least its spirit can be resuscitated, especially in these troubled times when our generation should not be apathetic to the horrors around us. I do not mean that we should all grow our hair, thrash the streets of Manila in drunken abandon and take copious amounts of hallucinogens. I believe that even necktie-clad yuppies, sleep-deprived neurosurgeons, and family lawyers can be true bohemians.

Four Easy Steps

Do not be fazed by conformity, and do not be a slave to nonconformity, either.

I know some people who can be so consumed with not blending in, that they shun the silver lining edging the dark cloud of conventional culture. A hard-core rocker friend of mine didn't talk to me for two hours because he couldn't believe I admitted to adoring Kylie Minogue and finding Ricky Martin delectable. We are free to love and question, we have the capacity to filter out what we like and do not like, even if that means expressing that I am upset with Bob Dylan for allegedly lifting exact lines from Japanese author Junichi Saga's book, "Confessions of a Yakuza" for his Grammy-winning album, "Love and Theft." And I will stubbornly still sing The Spice Girls' "Mama," because it is an ode to the woman that I love most in the world!

See life as art. So what if you can't draw a decent stick figure? Not everybody is born with an artistic streak, yet everybody does possess the ability to be inspired. Inspiration is the root of passion, and this can be channeled to productive ventures that become your life's craft. What you do, big or small, forms the mosaic of your existence.

See today as an adventure. You don't need to be making hundreds of thousands of pesos a month to discover life's thrills. In fact, this is possible only when one possesses a keen sense of adventure and an enthusiasm for The Golden Moment. Be able to discern an opportunity, great or tiny, to make today a day to remember. Pass up on Greenbelt shopping and go treasure-hunting on a Friday afternoon in Quiapo. Pass up on your coffee fix for the afternoon in lieu of an art exhibit, such as the Peruvian art exhibit ongoing at the Podium now, showcasing authentic pre-Incan artifacts—for free. Think of "24/7" not as a numbered method to track a passing existence but as chapters chronicling an interesting life that you author.

Cherish your individuality. Above all, relish your unique perspective. You are not just a number in a statistical report. Your uniqueness can have an impact on the world. Take it from true individualists like the Dalai Lama and Jesus Christ!

Thus, let me make a toast of my own, with you, a take on the old battle cry of the Latin Quarter: "Change the world more than it changes you!"

By the way, the proper way to drink absinthe is to trickle five parts of water over a sugar cube to dilute one part of the potent absinthe. Never drink it neat, and don't set it on fire—that is just for showoffs.

Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com

A week in a life less ordinary

From page F1

is the unrelenting Pinoy trait of finding humor amidst troublesome times. During Edsa Dos, I was immensely amused by the placards that the rallyists carried, especially one that read, "Erap Resign!" over which was scribbled a little note: "*Hindi ako uuwi, Ma. Ikaw ang maghuhugas ng pinggan.*"

A friend once relayed another strange scene she encountered while marching across the flyover: a young vendor carrying a sign that read, "Keep Off the Grass," obviously plucked from a garden.

Last Sunday I witnessed the same brand of absurdity you can't help but laugh at, shown on the TV screen that I was glued to. There, an impassioned Trillanes was, ready to die for his beliefs, and behind him, a young soldier busily texting. There were the usual suspects, the *usiseros* blithely watching bombs being wired in front of the Intercon. Perhaps they were really looking forward to watching the latest "Terminator" sequel but got sidetracked by the rebellion right outside their favorite theaters.

Then there were scenes from the raid in Mandaluyong. As troops uncovered the ammunition and personal effects supposedly left behind by the renegades, two soldiers, having found the more red arm bands such as those worn by the pack in Oakwood, cheerily tried them on. Not to mention the text messages that poured in: "Free parking *sa* Glorietta! Hurry before it explodes!"

This strange brand of humor I have doubtless imbibed as a true-blooded constituent of our beloved "Banana Republic." Case in point: When I got a call the other day informing me that I had to cover the President's Sona, I thought I had to write a lifestyle feature about a sauna.

DO WE HEAR WEDDING BELLS? Sona's best looking couple Audrey Aquino-Tan and Cong. Miguel Zubiri

Yes, my fellow youngsters, such is the State of my ImagiNation: slightly distracted, escapist, a bit too used to a landscape where pleasurable affairs coexist all too closely with vexing affairs of the state.

Post-Sona drinks

In the posh South lounge where dinner and cocktails were served after the President's address, I admit I felt awkward, being more comfortable with knocking down beers among casually attired peers. Yet perhaps I was a novelty, sort of like a puppy in a den of tigers, because many of the older guests graciously handed me soft drinks from the bar, which I promptly traded for red wine.

So there I was, by the bar, airing views about the just-concluded Sona with a good friend in tow. Our ensuing lightheadedness from the wine was sobered up by the disturbing facts that we learned, issues directly affecting our generation as mentioned in the different speeches.

My friend and I were then perturbed by a bizarre scenario that was unfolding before our eyes. A well-dressed woman by the dessert table was stuffing pastries into her leather bag. Perhaps she had mouths to feed, we rationalized, thus she had to resort to such a feat of bravery in such a posh milieu.

Suddenly, as I stood there still, I found myself next to the President's men, bodyguards and escorts, and mere inches from a purple-robed Madame of the Moment. OK, so the concerns of the youth were now in my hands, and so was a half-filled, long-stemmed glass of red wine. I stepped forward to introduce myself, and she cheerfully greeted me by name, which I'm sure she forgot in the next second. Hey, at least I didn't spill wine on her dress.

Such were the recent scenes in the bizarre script of my young life. I know that I should be less of a spectator to this tragi-comic play, where my fierce idealism and passion for the country's future could choke me up, but where my ability to acknowledge buffoonery would surely bring a streams of smiles to my face.

Thus I will continue to hope, not unlike a young child chronicling a life less ordinary, leaving the next pages clean with the optimism that they will soon recount a change for the better.

(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

A LIST. Assunta da Rossi in a modernized Muslim gown by Frederick Peralta with Ipe Cruz, Christopher and KC de Venecia

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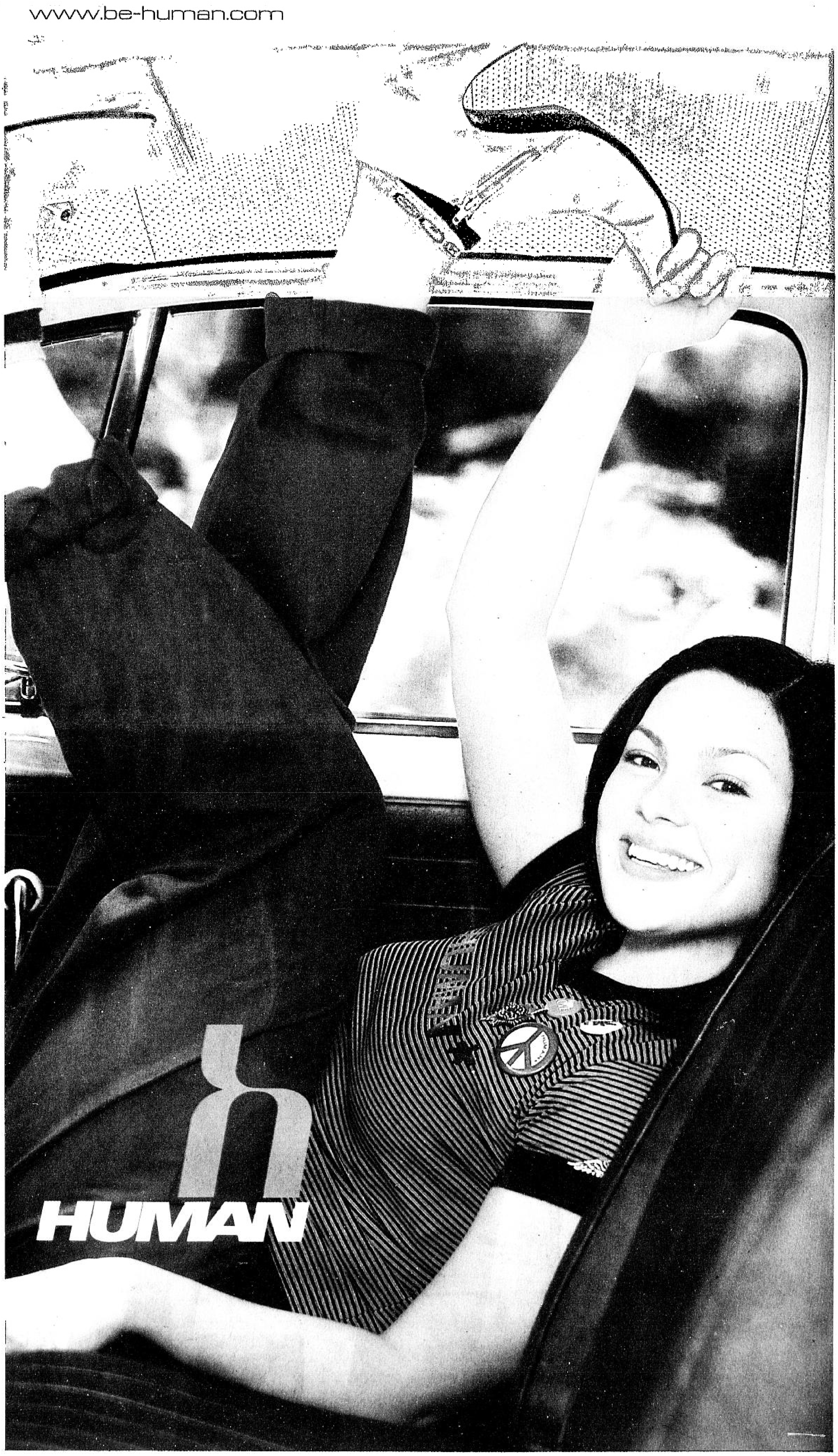
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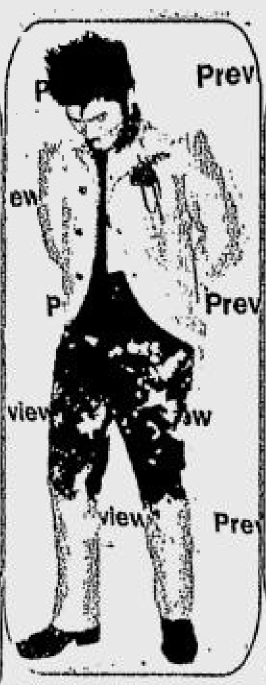
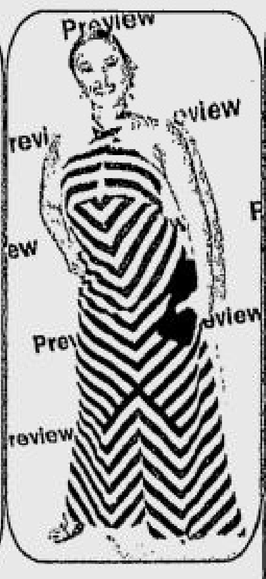
RATED R. Renee Salud in action



SAGA MASTER. Robbie Carmona in LZ Punzalan

CHINA CHOP. Chat Fores, style meister



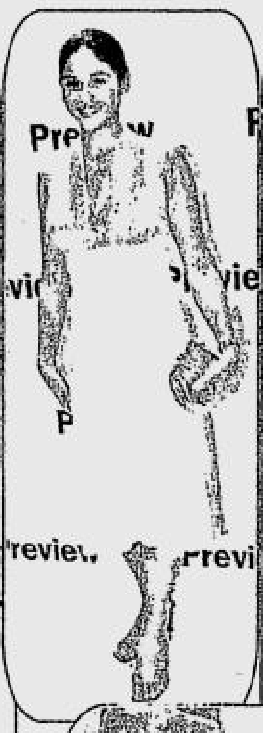
BOLD STRIPED. Astrud Crisologo in Paolo Basa

FUTURISTIC FASHION. Leica Carpo in avant-garde Jojie Lloren

VITAMIN C. Celine Lopez is this month's cover girl

BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM. Jackie Aquino

MODEL TO MOVIE STAR. Rissa Samson, actress



UBER stylish sisters Rose Montenegro and Angela Arroyo

SVELTE SOPHISTICATI. Tahnee Yap exudes effortless elan

SUMMIT STYLE. Treena Cueva

GLAM GAL. Maite Ponce in '50s flamboyance

GOLDEN POND. Michi Valeriano, style swan

View to a fashion kill

By Tim Yap

TOO many trend-ists in one room makes for great chatter. "Where did you get that?" "Who made your outfit?" "I can't believe your grandma kept that!"

The great fashion escape came in the form of Preview's Style Society ball, where style mavens from twentysomething to ninetysomething met and (mis)matched.

Paparazzi at the door, Alize on the floor—everyone cried out for more!

Whatever the case, one thing's for sure. Fashionistas beautify the city's landscape. They all seem to be snobs, but deep down, they're soft as butter, only dressed better.

CHIC ALLIANCE. Michael Salientes and Philippe Normand

MUSCLE TRIO. Macky Lim, Paolo Pineda, who took the pictures of the 25 most stylish and Leo Garcia

SLINKY FUNK. Daacs sisters Mimi and Juliet Tan

YOURS TRULY in Rajo Laurel, F4-look by Henri Calayag

BLACK BLOCK. Miguel Rosales and BBC's Kara Tolentino

SUPERMODEL Jo Ann Bitagcol proves that style does not come with a price tag with this vintage find from the Bambang flea market. Here with discoverer, make up master Jay Lozada

SUMMIT STANDARD. FDCP prexy Randy Ortiz with Cosmo's Myrza Sison and Tonichi Nocum

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AXE Cuervo Preview

SATURDAY
Super Special

MARTIN Lawrence and Will Smith team up again for "Bad

Saturday Special Super! sneaks into the set of 'Bad Boys II' in Miami

A bigger, badder, better sequel

By Alexis L. Loinaz

"Gabrielle, this is a f---ing action movie. Don't be such a wuss—get in the car and drive!"

Those were the encouraging words that Gabrielle Union, the stunningly beautiful co-star of "Bad Boys II," heard from Michael Bay.

The notoriously mercurial director, who has helmed some of Hollywood's biggest bang-'em-ups (think "Armageddon"), was prepping a complex car-chase sequence along a busy Miami highway. In it, Union, who plays an undercover narcotics agent, would be fleeing members of a drug mob. Of course, she thought, the car would be driven by a stunt person.

"I was eating a donut and Michael's like, 'All right, the shot's set up for you,'" she tells us with much panic. "And I get behind the wheel, and I'm having the hugest anxiety attack. I don't drive well 'coz I don't see well—nor did I bring my glasses. My eyes are watering, my foot's shaking—I can't keep it steady on the gas—and Michael's in the back seat: 'Faster! Faster!'"

By the time Union reached the end of the highway, she was in tears. Bay, on the other hand offered his critique: "He's like, 'OK, that was cool,'" she recalls, "'except [law enforcement] agents don't usually cry during car chases. One more time.'"

No crying

In fact, there is no crying on a Michael Bay set. Testosterone powers the action, stuff blows up, and everything is bigger, badder, better.

Bay certainly hopes this is true with "Bad Boys II," sequel to the surprise 1995 hit that jump-started his Hollywood career, made comedian Martin Lawrence shine, and turned Will Smith into a star. It eventually went on to gross $140 million worldwide.

Eight years in the making, "Bad Boys II" once seemed like an impossibility. After the first film was released, Smith joined Hollywood's A list and now reportedly commands $20 million a picture.

Lawrence tried his hand at writing and directing (1996's "A Thin Line Between Love and Hate"), and went through a series of bizarre episodes, including run-ins with the cops, sexual harassment allegations, and a three-day coma after he collapsed while reportedly trying to lose weight for a movie.

As for the now-hot Bay? Well, if you've had to cover your ears while watching a movie in the last eight years, chances are it was one of his eardrum-busting films, all of which have been hits ("The Rock," "Armageddon," "Pearl Harbor").

Getting everyone's schedules—and salary re-

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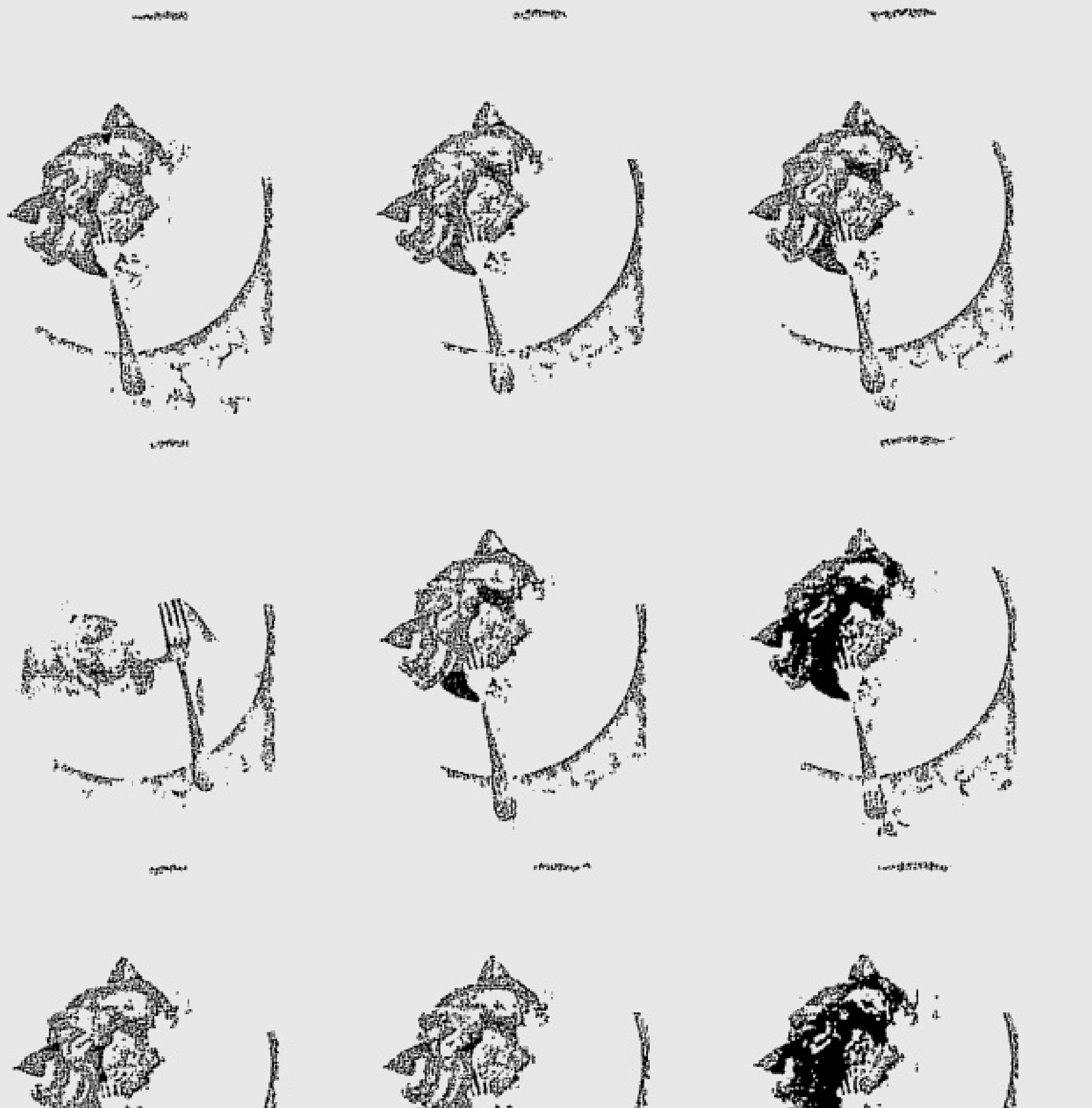

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Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

How is Lolo? How is Lola?
1st of 5 parts

When asked about Lolo and Lola, Filipinos talk about their seniors with much fondness, not realizing that they could be demonstrating signs of a problem that is difficult to notice -- malnutrition.

What is Malnutrition?

Malnutrition is defined as any nutritional disorder caused by insufficient, unbalanced, or excessive diet, or by the impaired absorption or assimilation of nutrients by the body. Just when you thought malnutrition was a condition diagnosed in children, now even senior citizens can be quietly suffering from it.

In the United States alone, 1 out of 4 senior citizens is malnourished. It has been estimated that up to 55% of seniors admitted to hospitals are suffering from malnutrition.

The Causes

Trouble chewing and/or swallowing Poor dental health, an irritated throat or some other medical condition will surely reduce food intake.

Diminished sense of taste and smell Upon reaching the senior years, one's sense of taste and smell begin to deteriorate. Tastebuds dull to salty and sweet so food tastes bland reducing desire to eat. Those who wear dentures may also lose sensitivity to sour and bitter tastes. Food choices become limited, so do preferences.

Physical problems as a result of a disorder or an illness Tremors from conditions such as Parkinson's disease or physical limitations after a stroke make eating difficult.

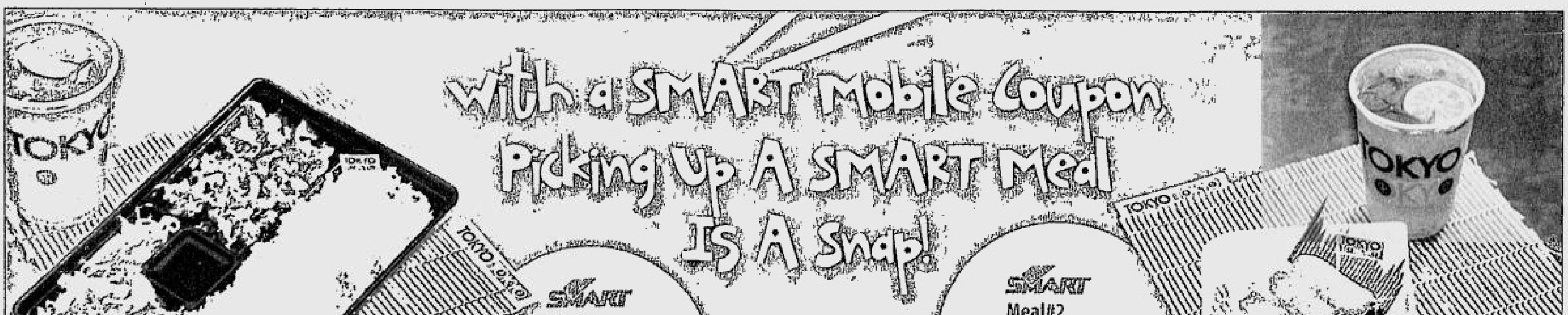
Emotional state If you observe Amang or Inang to be distant or somewhat depressed, these are natural reactions to the changes taking place (whether it be physical, physiological, emotional or mental). Understand that these feelings affect appetite a great deal.

Dietary Restrictions Your parent who has diabetes or heart problem may have low calorie-protein intake.

Ageing is a process as complicated and as challenging as growing up. The stages can come fast or slow but key to everything is knowing what to expect and how to cope.

Help your loved ones celebrate ageing year after year while staying well-nourished, healthy and happy.

Prevent malnutrition. Consult your physician on effective ways to provide Lola and Lolo better nutrition through Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement.



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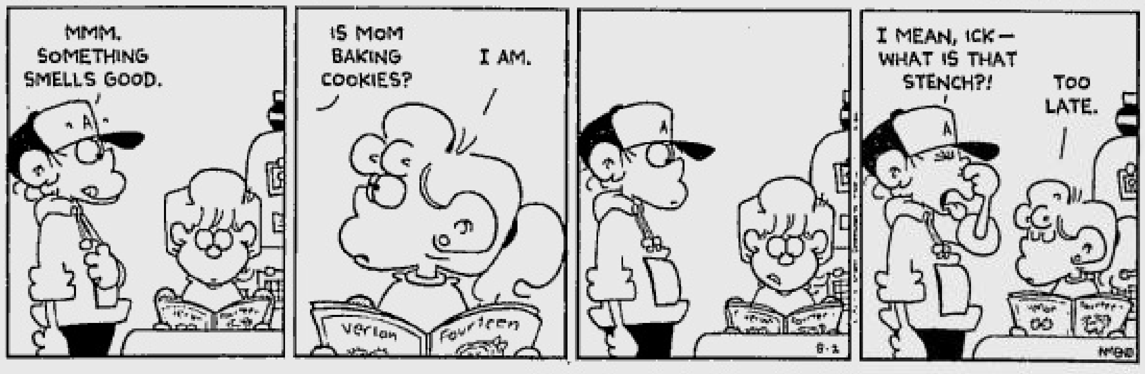
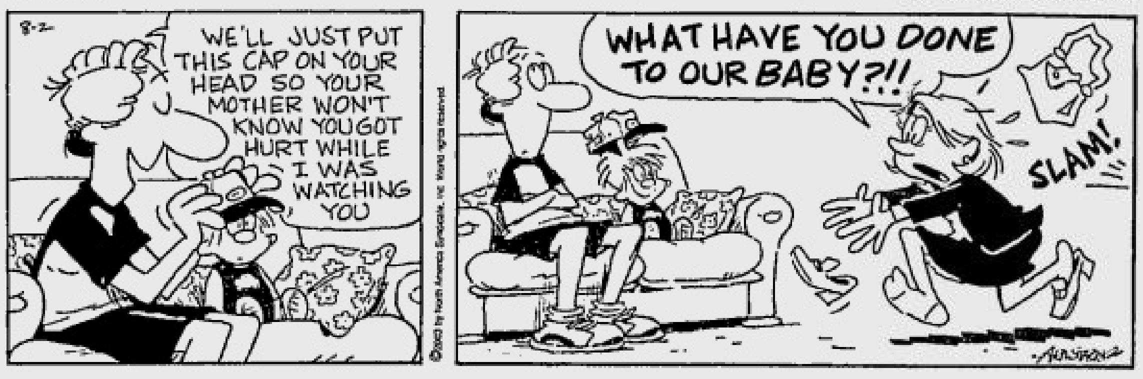
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MMM. SOMETHING SMELLS GOOD.
IS MOM BAKING COOKIES?
I AM.
I MEAN, ICK— WHAT IS THAT STENCH?!
TOO LATE.
8-2

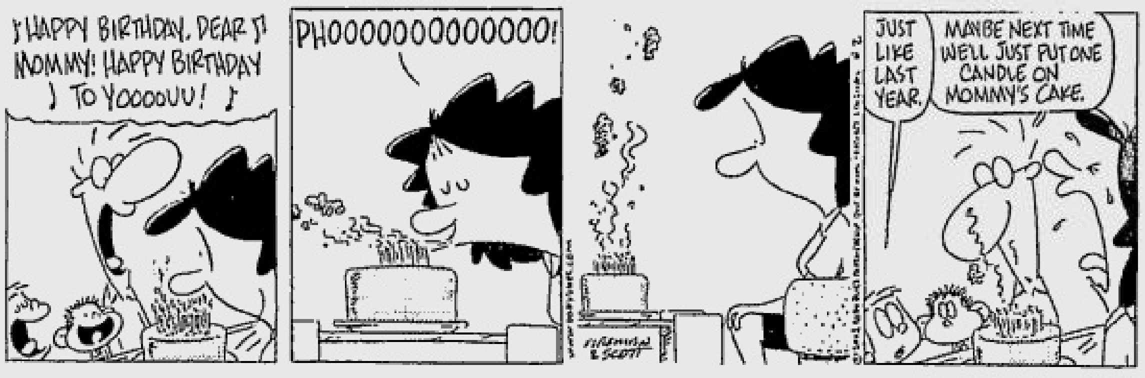
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


8-2-
WE'LL JUST PUT THIS CAP ON YOUR HEAD SO YOUR MOTHER WON'T KNOW YOU GOT HURT WHILE I WAS WATCHING YOU
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO OUR BABY?!!
SLAM!
ARMSTRONG

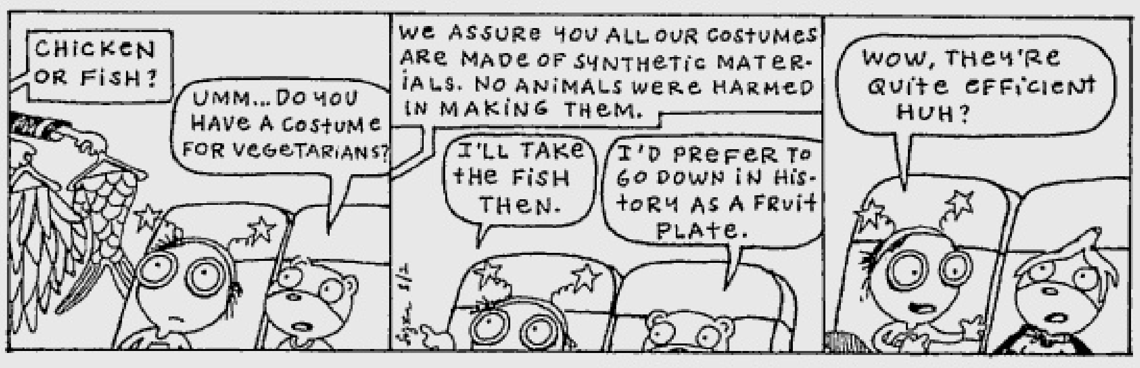
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


♪ HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR ♪ MOMMY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY ♪ TO YOOOOUU! ♪
PHOOOOOOOOOOOOO!
JUST LIKE LAST YEAR.
MAYBE NEXT TIME WE'LL JUST PUT ONE CANDLE ON MOMMY'S CAKE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CHICKEN OR FISH?
UMM... DO YOU HAVE A COSTUME FOR VEGETARIANS?
WE ASSURE YOU ALL OUR COSTUMES ARE MADE OF SYNTHETIC MATERIALS. NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED IN MAKING THEM.
I'LL TAKE THE FISH THEN.
I'D PREFER TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A FRUIT PLATE.
WOW, THEY'RE QUITE EFFICIENT HUH?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY You are a courageous idealist. You are also extremely determined. This can sometimes bring adventure into your life. (You do not shrink from danger.) Your search for truth and justice is extremely important to you. Exciting new beginnings in a number of areas will make this a memorable year for you.
Birthdate of: Martin Sheen, actor; John T. Scopes, teacher; Tony Bennett, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Even though the Moon is opposite your sign, this is a lovely day for you. Fun times, sports and entertaining activities provide the perfect backdrop for profound discussions.

TAURUS(April 20 to May 20) This is a good day to throw away whatever you no longer need or use. In fact, you might need to do this if you have recently bought something new for your home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You feel a strong desire to enlighten others and to teach or improve people today. A noble intention! But remember: You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him float.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're prepared to spend money to make improvements to your health or home. This is a good. If you don't invest in yourself first, you'll be of no use to anyone.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You are optimistic and happy about life today. You feel blessed and fortunate to have what you have and be who you are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
You feel sensitive about money and possessions today. In fact, you feel territorial about what you own. You want others to respect your boundaries.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your love of the mysterious is triggered today. You might like to relax reading a mystery or watching a movie. You want to be entertained!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
You seek out the true meaning of your feelings with your friends today. You want to talk about what is really going on, and put all your cards on the table.

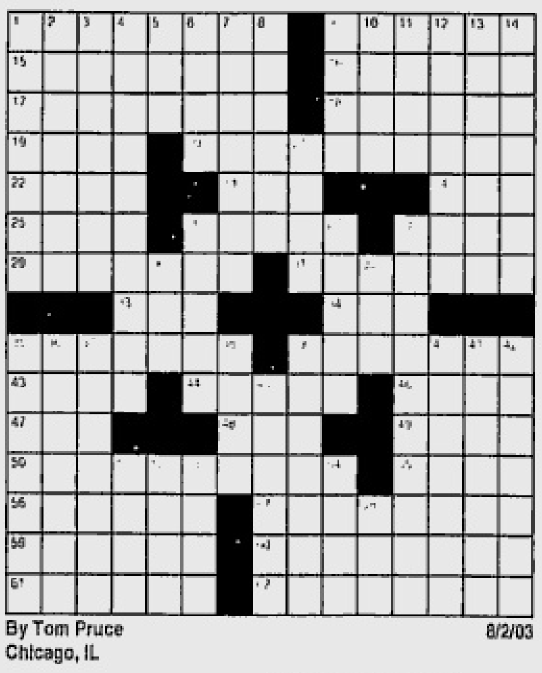
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
Listen to the advice of a good friend who has suggestions about how you can improve your appearance. Alternatively, these ideas could come through a magazine or another source.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Trust your good ideas about how to share money and resources with others in order to achieve your goal. This is definitely a day where joint efforts pay off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
You're open to new ways of thinking today. You feel so tolerant that you're willing to look at completely different belief systems or religions in order to understand them better.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)This is a good day to benefit from cleaning, repairing and reorganizing things at home or at work. You will not regret putting out the effort.

DAILY CROSSWORD



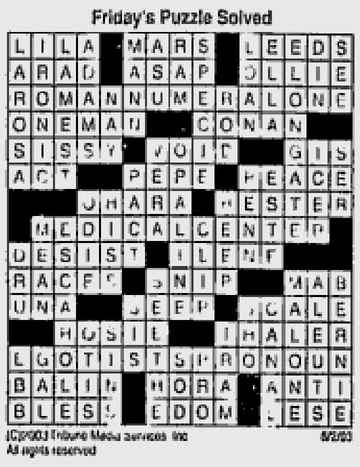
By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

8/2/03

ACROSS
1 Put an end to forcibly
9 Turns inside out
15 Head-to-head
16 Unsparing
17 "A Spy in the House of Love" writer
18 Sharp ridges
19 Cats and cockatoos, e.g.
20 Expert
22 Vivacity
23 Old French coin
24 Map abbr.
25 Baker's need
26 Euphemistic oaths
28 Whipping scar
29 Trademark photocopies
31 Long steps
33 Be in poor health
34 Member of the fam.
35 In an annoying manner
39 Like a scoundrel
43 Park and Lex.
44 Fable man
46 Italian noble family
47 Gun it in neutral
48 __-di-dah
49 Wild pig
50 Inning-ending rarity
55 Exile island
56 "Catch-22" author
57 Eminently
59 Small landmasses
60 Absorbed
61 Relaxed
62 First courses

DOWN
1 Orator's perch
2 Deprive of fortitude
3 Like a mossier bog
4 Irritating shrubs
5 Hosp. personnel
6 Long, long times
7 Hidden marksmen
8 One of the Finger Lakes
9 Morales of "La Bamba"
10 Aloe __
11 Daredevil Knievel
12 On a pension
13 Bridge supporter
14 Six-line stanzas
21 Film edits
26 Perry's secretary
27 Purse attachment
28 Gnu
30 Noon on a sundial
32 Sportscaster Barber
35 Part of Alexander the Great's empire
36 K-2's neighbor
37 City in SW Spain
38 Sharp, shrill bark
39 Live together
40 Set apart
41 More balanced
42 Messengers
45 Greens courses
51 Entreaty
52 Gives permission to
53 Gaelic tongue
54 Exercise discipline
58 Pt. of a poem

Friday's Puzzle Solved



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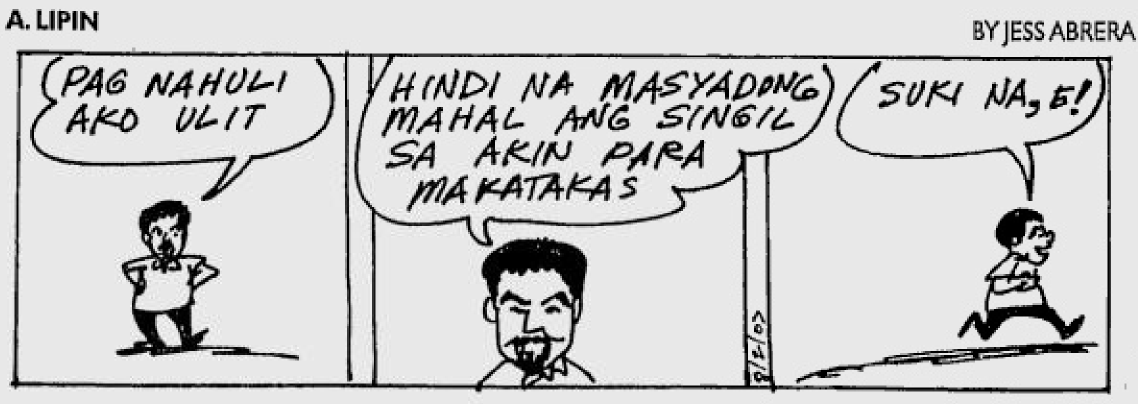
8/2/03

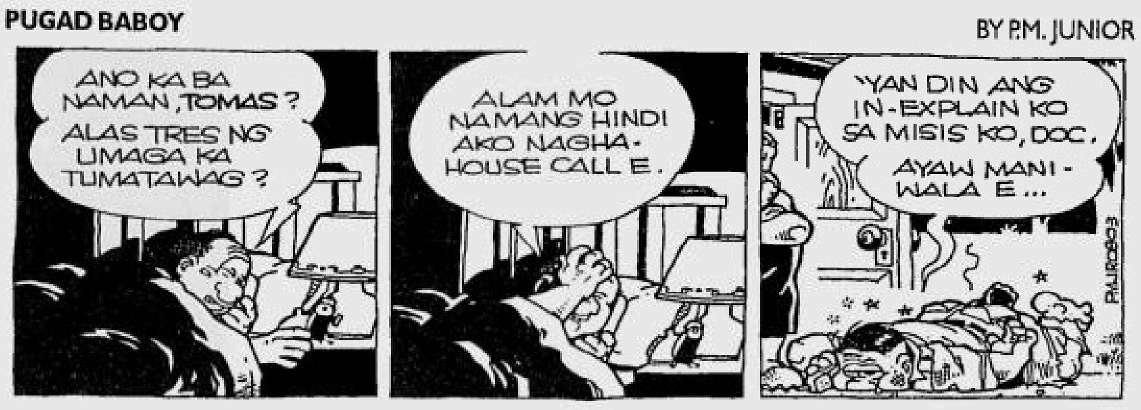
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAG NAHULI AKO ULIT
HINDI NA MASYADONG MAHAL ANG SINGIL SA AKIN PARA MAKATAKAS
SUKI NA, E!
8/2/03

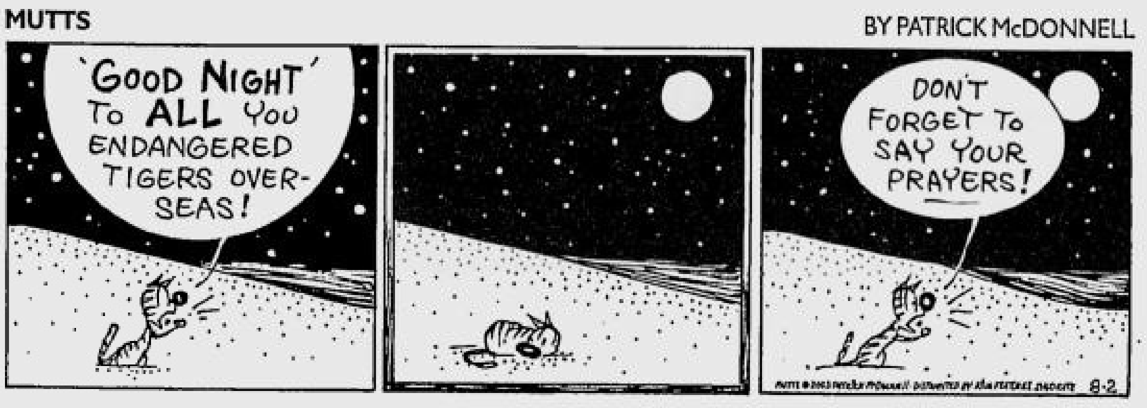
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO KA BA NAMAN, TOMAS? ALAS TRES NG UMAGA KA TUMATAWAG?
ALAM MO NAMANG HINDI AKO NAGHA-HOUSE CALL E.
'YAN DIN ANG IN-EXPLAIN KO SA MISIS KO, DOC. AYAW MANIWALA E...
PMJR0803

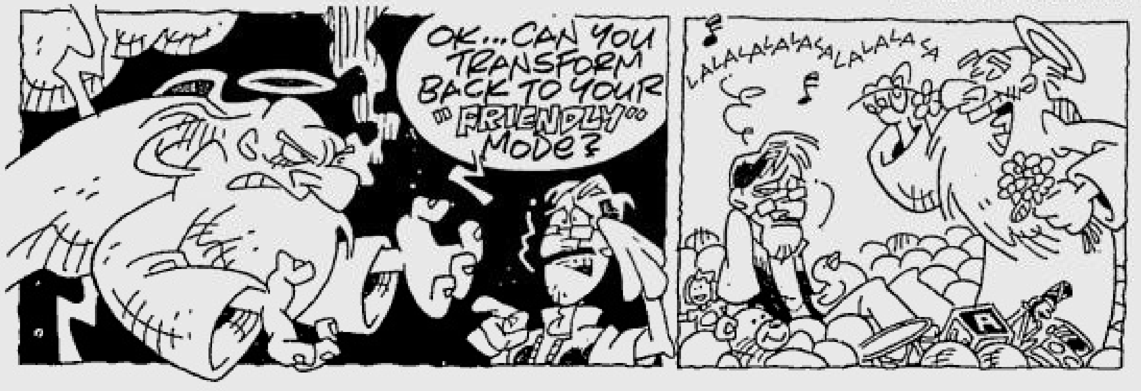
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


'GOOD NIGHT' TO ALL YOU ENDANGERED TIGERS OVERSEAS!
DON'T FORGET TO SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
8-2

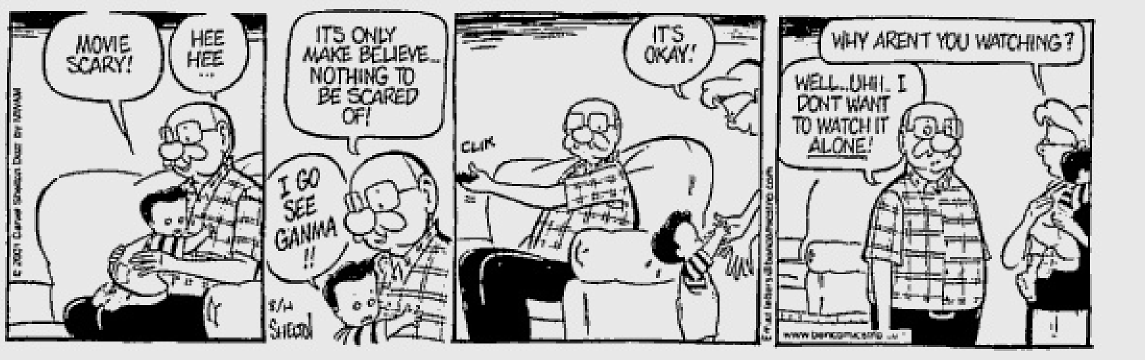
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


OK... CAN YOU TRANSFORM BACK TO YOUR "FRIENDLY" MODE?
LALALASALALASALALALALASA

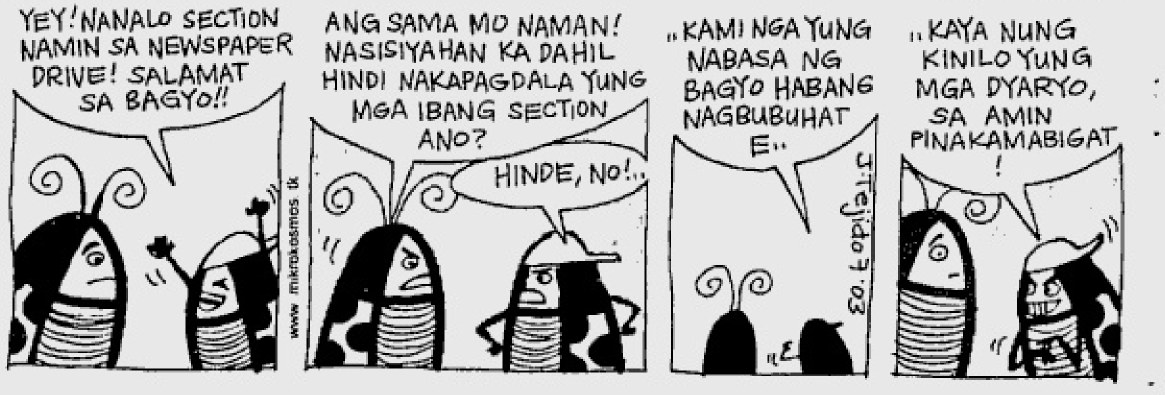
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MOVIE SCARY!
HEE HEE ...
IT'S ONLY MAKE BELIEVE... NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF!
I GO SEE GANMA !!
CLIK
IT'S OKAY!
WHY AREN'T YOU WATCHING?
WELL...UH!... I DON'T WANT TO WATCH IT ALONE!
8/4
SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


YEY! NANALO SECTION NAMIN SA NEWSPAPER DRIVE! SALAMAT SA BAGYO!!
ANG SAMA MO NAMAN! NASISIYAHAN KA DAHIL HINDI NAKAPAGDALA YUNG MGA IBANG SECTION ANO?
HINDE, NO!..
„KAMI NGA YUNG NABASA NG BAGYO HABANG NAGBUBUHAT E..
„KAYA NUNG KINILO YUNG MGA DYARYO, SA AMIN PINAKAMABIGAT!
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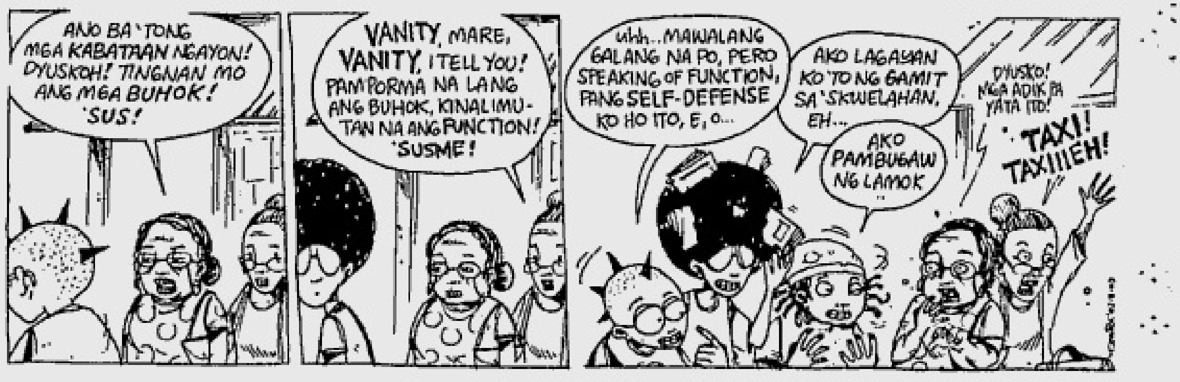
J. Tejido 7.03

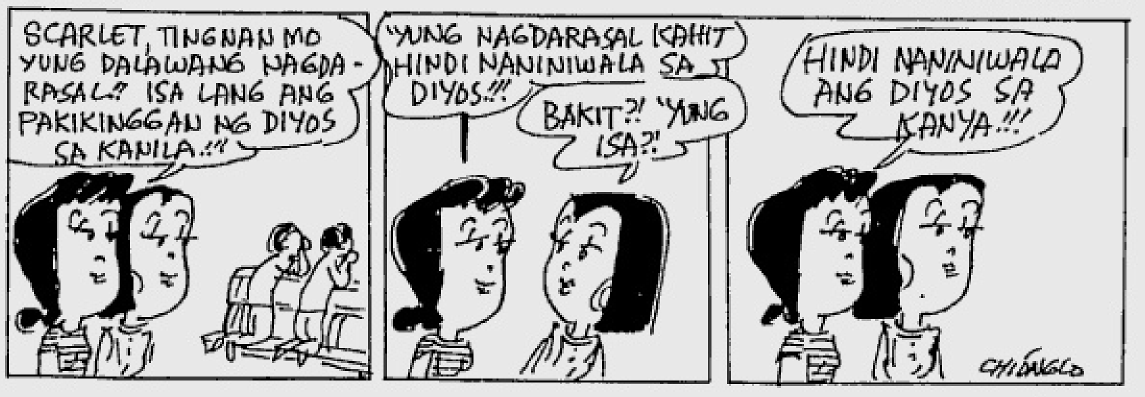
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO BA 'TONG MGA KABATAAN NGAYON! DYUSKOH! TINGNAN MO ANG MGA BUHOK! 'SUS!
VANITY, MARE, VANITY, I TELL YOU! PAMPORMA NA LANG ANG BUHOK, KINALIMUTAN NA ANG FUNCTION! 'SUSME!
uhh... MAWALANG GALANG NA PO, PERO SPEAKING OF FUNCTION, PANG SELF-DEFENSE KO HO ITO, E, O...
AKO LAGAYAN KO 'TO NG GAMIT SA 'SKWELAHAN, EH...
AKO PAMBUGAW NG LAMOK
DYUSKO! NGA ADIK PA YATA ITO!
TAXI! TAXI!!!EH!

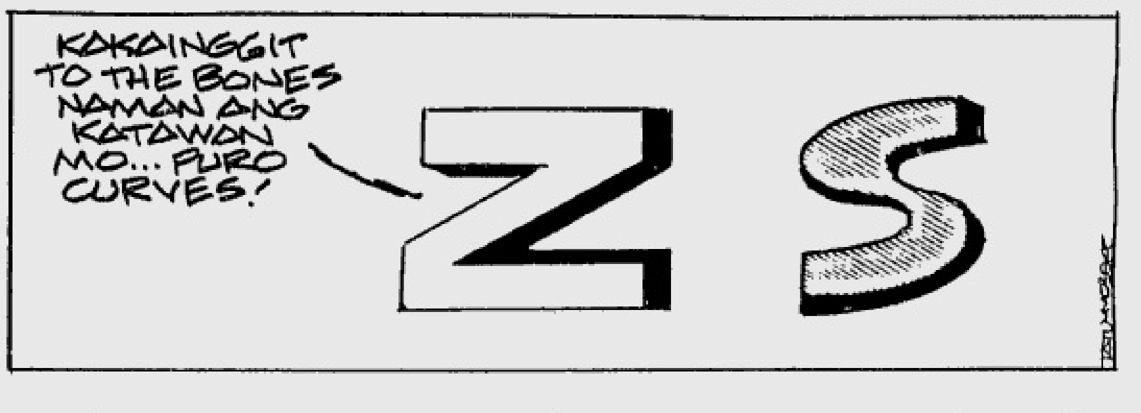
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SCARLET, TINGNAN MO YUNG DALAWANG NAGDARASAL!? ISA LANG ANG PAKIKINGGAN NG DIYOS SA KANILA.!!
'YUNG NAGDARASAL KAHIT HINDI NANINIWALA SA DIYOS!!!
BAKIT?! 'YUNG ISA?!
HINDI NANINIWALA ANG DIYOS SA KANYA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


KAKAINGGIT TO THE BONES NAMAN ANG KATAWAN MO... PURO CURVES!
Z
S

A bigger, badder, better sequel

From page G1

quirements—to work out would have given any studio executive a migraine. Apparently, Columbia Pictures, the studio behind the film, had some very large Tylenols on hand: most of the original film's key players are back, including blockbuster producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

And they make no bones about what "Bad Boys II" is set to deliver.

Raw adrenaline

"'Bad Boys II' is, straight down the middle, almost the perfect action movie," Smith tells Saturday Special Super! in Miami, where he's promoting the film. "There are no social ramifications, there's no deeper message, no hidden agenda. It is just raw adrenaline and comedy. And it's almost like an amusement ride; you're not supposed to get anything out of it but joy."

Smith and Martin reprise their roles as Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett, "Odd Couple"-type cops who try to bust an Ecstasy ring run by a Cuban drug lord (played by Spanish actor Jordi Molla).

On board for the adrenaline rush is Union, who plays Burnett's tough, sassy sister (and the target of Lowrey's goo-goo eyes). When she's kidnapped while trying to infiltrate Molla's drug network, the boys load their guns, pack the explosives and head off to Cuba, where they pretty much waste a Fourth of July's worth of pyrotechnics to save her—all the while looking really cool in lots of slow-mo shots.

Smith, whose post-"Bad Boys" films have all together grossed over $2.5 billion worldwide, was eager to get the sequel right.

"It was definitely the beginning, the first 'Bad Boys,' that is the big reason it took so long to do another one," he says. "It was the beginning for Michael Bay, for Martin and for me. So it has a really sentimental place in our hearts. We would have been crucified if we didn't do it right."

Lawrence, on the other hand, just wanted to play ball again. "It's like having the opportunity to sign with the Lakers," he says. "You got Phil Jackson, Shaq and Kobe. What you gonna do?"

Joyride

Crank up the action, apparently. There are considerably more gunshots, explosions and dead bodies in "Bad Boys II" than in the original film.

Then again, expecting the film to be anything but a high-testosterone joyride would be like saying Arnold Schwarzenegger should have been in "The English Patient." The architecture of a Bruckheimer-Bay film hews toward slick, unapologetically popcorn aesthetic, not high-minded literary pedigree.

"It's Michael Bay," says Bruckheimer, who has produced some of Hollywood's biggest moneymakers (including "Top Gun," "Beverly Hills Cop" and all of Bay's films). "The guys are fighting, there's explosions, and there's gunfire. But it's 'Bad Boys.' That's what the first one was, and that's what the second one is. Except that this one's a lot bigger and funnier, I think."

The centerpiece of "Bad Boys II" is a spectacular car-chase sequence (the one that left Union with the shakes) that upstages the over-hyped highway-pursuit scene in "Matrix Reloaded."

The sequence, in which the titular Bad Boys chase the bad guys chasing Union, features out-of-control cars that fly over, corkscrew around and crash through Smith and Lawrence's snazzy Porsche. There's even an exploding boat somewhere in there. Go figure.

"That was really scary," says Lawrence of shooting the scene, which required production to shut down a major Miami freeway for three days. "The stunt driver had to drive at a hundred-something miles and go right and left simultaneously. It was like 'Armageddon' or something. I think I sh---d on myself."

On the other hand, violent parts include out-of-control bodies mangled under cars, hurled through windshields and truncated by exploding land mines. It is, quite frankly, so over-the-top it is bound to make some moviegoers squirm.

The violence also surprised Union. She notes: "When you read the script, it says, 'corpse is in the street.' But seeing it? I was like, oh, Jesus! It plays a lot differently than what was on the page. I was like, whoa! It looks like you've just blown somebody to bits. And then they yell cut, he pops up, and he's like, 'Want a Krispy Kreme?'"

Lawrence is more detached. "I don't concern myself with that," he says. "Parents take the responsibility for educating kids to what is fact and what is fiction. I'm not hired as the director or the producer to tally up how many cars flip or how many people get shot in the ass. That's not my job. I'm there to act."

Perilous

Acting in a Michael Bay film, though, can sometimes be as perilous as shooting those action scenes. Observers have noted that the director sometimes neglects to pay as much attention to his actors as he does to his explosions, leaving them to work things out on their own.

According to Jordi Molla, he was offered the part of the drug lord just 20 days before shooting began. But when he finally met with Bay to discuss the role, "[Bay] said, 'We'll talk about it.' And he left! It was Saturday, and I was starting on Monday," Molla remembers. "He was more focused on this huge movie, about action. Nobody had time to really explain to me what I'm supposed to do. So I had to discover everything by myself."

Then there's Bay's infamous temper, which Union learned to take in stride. "If you're not a sensitive person, you'll be fine," she says. "I have a couple of friends who've worked on Michael Bay films and [were] like, 'It's just not worth it. Life is too short to work with Michael Bay.' His temper emerges because of his desire to get everything right. And as long as you put that in perspective, you can't take that personally."

THE MOVIE promises big bad blow-ups

It was Bay's hard-charging perfectionism, Union says, that kept her and the rest of the cast on their toes—to make sure that fans of the first film will not be disappointed with the sequel.

After all, with so much hype and money riding on "Bad Boys II," studio executives hope that the eight-year wait will have whetted audiences' appetites, not dampened it.

"I was a huge fan of the first one," Union says. "Every aspect of the first film that people really liked, they just magnified. That kind of made me nervous, though. It's like, if it ain't broke..." her voice trails off.. "So I really had to step it up in this one. But I'm proud of the job that we did."

(E-mail: alexisloinaz@yahoo.com)

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Wong Kar-Wai Retrospective

By Janus Victoria

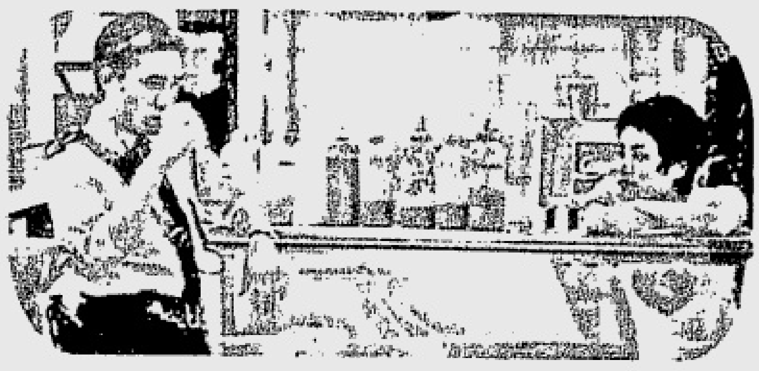
One of the most innovative filmmakers in world cinema is feted in the 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival

TWO. Tony Leung and the late Leslie Cheung in "Happy Together."

IN the last decade, one of the most innovative filmmakers in cinema emerged from Hong Kong. His name: Wong Kar-Wai.

The fifth Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival pays tribute to this most heralded director in Asia with the "Wong Kar-Wai Retrospective," featuring four of his films: "Chungking Express," "Happy Together," "Days of Being Wild," and "In the Mood for Love" from Aug. 7 to 24, 2003 at the Greenbelt Cinemas in Ayala Center, Makati.

As a director, Wong Kar-Wai has developed a unique style characterized by contemporary approaches in photography, music and editing. As a writer, he creates melancholic stories about ordinary people that never becomes melodramatic.


QUIZAS, quizas, quizas. Maggie Cheung and Tony Leung are reticent lovers in "In the Mood for Love."

Shanghai-born Wong trained as a graphic design artist at the Hong Kong Polytechnic, but worked as a scriptwriter for the Hong Kong Television Broadcasts Ltd. for several years in the 1980s, whipping up stories that ranged from romances to thrillers.

One day in 1986, a producer casually asked him if he wanted to make his own movie. He replied, "Why not?"

Since his directorial debut in 1988 with "As Tears Go By," Wong has made some of the most influential films in Hong Kong. His creative team includes film editor and production designer William Chang and cinematographer Chris Doyle, who have worked with Wong in all but one of his film projects.

His reputation for making critically acclaimed films has stirred the interest of Hong Kong's biggest stars, since almost all of the actors in Wong's movies have won, or have been nominated for, acting awards.

For all the willing talents, Wong seems to favor working with the same performers: Maggie Cheung, Tony Leung, Andy Lau and the late Leslie Cheung.

Charming

"Days of Being Wild" (1990) is Wong's second film. Set in '60s Hong Kong, it tells the story of a young man named York (played by Leslie Cheung) and his ex-girlfriend (Maggie Cheung). The movie is filled with charming pick-up lines like "April 16, 1960. I will remember this minute forever because of you."

In 1994, Wong made "Chungking Express" during a production break in a prior film, "Ashes of Time." "Chunking" took only two months to make, and yet it is one of the most endearing films ever made. It tells of two lovelorn Hong Kong cops who are dumped by their girlfriends and trying to get over the hurt in the most bizarre ways.

The first cop (Takeshi Kaneshiro) eats expired canned pineapples until he gets sick, while the second cop (Tony Leung) talks to household items—his bar of soap, hand towels, and stuffed animals.

In "Happy Together" (1997), which gave him the Cannes Film Festivals' Best Director award, Wong brings his audience to the other side of the world: Buenos Aires, Argentina. It tells the story of a gay couple (played by Tony Leung and Leslie Cheung) who are always on the brink of separation. The use of the stark black-and-white footage is a stroke of genius that indicates the ever-changing status of the pair's relationship by showing which partner is in control.

Filming for "In the Mood for Love" began in 1997 with three stories in the original story. Eventually, the focus shifted to one story, that of two neighbors, a writer (Tony Leung) and a secretary (Maggie Cheung), whose spouses are having an affair with each other. They soon discover this, and them themselves begin meeting secretly to reenact the betrayal of their spouses.

As with all Wong Kar-Wai films, the ending is left for the audience to figure out.

New directions

By the time "In the Mood for Love" was released in 2000, Wong's style had been imitated by many Hong Kong directors. But the three years of filming the movie had also pushed Wong into new directions in the use of color, lighting, and music. Every detail in the movie makes a lasting impression on the memory—the gorgeous, colorful cheongsams of Cheung, the melancholy songs of Nat King Cole, the haunting violin scores, the echoes, the silences.

"In the Mood for Love" won a special technical jury prize and the Best Actor award for Tony Leung at Cannes. It was shown during last year's Makati Cinemanila.

Today, Wong Kar-Wai is busy filming his next project, "2046." This futuristic film, though not science fiction, is set 50 years after Hong Kong's handover to China. A film about promises, "2046" has three stories, adapted from the western operas "Madame Butterfly," "Carmen," and "Tanhausen."

The 5th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival will run Aug. 7 to 24 at the Greenbelt Cinemas in Ayala Center, Makati. It is a project of the City of Makati and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines.

Log on to www.cinemanila.com.ph for more details.

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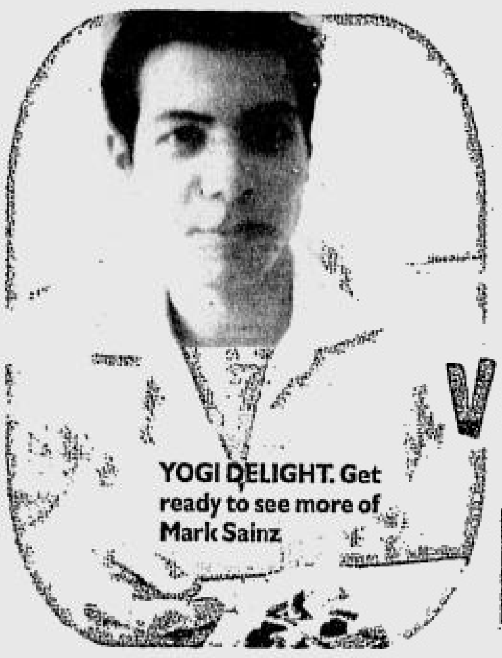
Mark Sainz goes VEGETARIAN @ Segafredo



YOGI DELIGHT. Get ready to see more of Mark Sainz

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

A VEGAN I am not, and never will be, as I see no end to my affair with food.

Not to say I am a pure carnivore. Although I prefer meat to other things, I have acquired an equal taste for those other things. That's especially since in this time and age, we have to be as conscious of nourishing the mind as we are of nourishing the body.

You know the saying: "If it tastes good, it's probably bad for you." On the contrary. We, the youth of today, are learning that we can find pleasure in things that are good for us.

Segafredo is widely known internationally, for its coffee. Period. If I occasionally thought of having a meal there, it was as prelude to the coffee, or to enjoy the bright and cheery café atmosphere, perfect for lounging and sitting pretty in.

So, when Marcos (as I call him) asked me to lunch there, I wasn't even going to eat. I was not in the mood for a vegetarian pizza or a pasta with your typical cream, tomato, or pesto (again!) sauce. Marcos/Mark Sainz is the next "it boy," if he isn't already. But chances are, he is widely recognizable, what with lead commercials for Axe, Nestea, Centrum and Advil, or endorsements for Burger King, Robinson and Globe.

Marcos is vegetarian (he does not eat animals, but does eat some stuff that come from animals, like dairy products). Before our lunch, he had been raving about Segafredo's tofu dish, which he had as a main course, with a spa salad. For a non-Asian tofu dish that was not drowning in sauce, I must say, it was impressively flavorful.

Light and silky in a thin batter, dusted with mornay sauce (bechamel and cheese), on a bed of chunky wild red, very ripe and stewed oregano with organic tomatoes, then garnished with herbs and a bittersweet basil leaf. A nice surprise it was, just like seeing Marcos after a year and hearing about his new life, and his spiritual path.

In August 2002, Marcos and I were set up on a blind date by relatives! I was told he was tall, dark and handsome; half-Pinoy, half-Spanish, grew up in Spain; graduated with honors from Columbia U, New York; a successful engineer for a software company in Manhattan; whose hobbies included yoga and playing in a jazz band.

Wow.

I was his first date here and we got along very well, especially in the eating department. For succedding food trips, we frequented Japanese restaurants, and had the most raw, and most adventurous kinds of sushi, with lots of *sake*. One thing, I came to realize immediately after one date was that, his talents and hobbies included flirting with girls, especially Filipinas! Having been away for so long, he practically went gaga over the girls of Manila, so that he couldn't choose one. So he didn't. And so we decided to become just friends, which was a great decision, as we have since been *great* friends.

One more decision I had to make, this time as I pondered the menu at Segafredo was . . . pasta with *uni* (sea urchin)? Mere words cannot describe this dish to anyone who doesn't know uni. Either you love it or you hate it.

The creamy, buttery texture of the uni with a slightly tangy taste of the sea was heavenly, as it rendered the thin firm spaghetti noodles, perfect for slurping. I had some of Marcos' food, but he wasn't remotely tempted to have any of mine. He was very strict with his diet, and very serious with his new lifestyle—no meat, no alcohol, less active like with girls. As he put it, "I have now opted for quality against quantity."

Marcos quit his job to continue his dream of becoming a full-time contemporary pianist. He has recently gotten accepted, with a scholarship, into the Berklee school of music in Boston, Massachusetts. And after a yoga retreat in Thailand paved his path to enlightenment, he is now also training to be a teacher of Ashtanga yoga.

He used to love food so much, picking the best cuts of meats, like the steaks at Peter Lugar in New York, one of the best steak houses/restaurants in the world, and the freshest prosciutto, and pancetta (ham) in Spain.

I took pictures of him enjoying his spa salad—fresh, crisp cucumber, chopped tomatoes, and hearty walnuts, dressed in a peppered vinaigrette. The sun was out, and it beamed beautifully, through the clear glass windows. A touch of jazz played in the background, never overpowering our voices in conversation. I had been in Segafredo before, many times, but now I was seeing the place in a whole new light. Perfect for peaceful lunchtime contemplation.

Soon after, I came back to Segafredo alone, just to try their other wonderful quasi-vegetarian dishes. Seafood is part of a quasi-vegetarian's diet. If you are one, do try their fried salmon, small, thin, crunchy fillets of salmon garnished on layers of *lolo rossa* red leaves, and green romaine lettuce, piled up with cottage cheese, and sour cream, which leaves a very pleasant feeling, indeed.

A tongue twister is the pizza salad, when you can't decide between a pizza and a salad, or want both! The dish consists of smoked salmon, capers, black and green olives with romaine lettuce, tossed in mornay sauce with wine. All these on top of a pizza crust, brushed with homemade tomato sauce.

Both the pizza salad and salmon have great ingredients but lack flavor. But this can easily be remedied by asking for more dressing and adding salt and pepper. According to the manager, Rory Subida, it's better for the food to be bland, than so salty that you can't fix it. Good point.

In case you are not vegetarian, or if you are on a see-food diet (when you see food, you eat), these are dishes that might not win gastronomic stars in your book, but they're healthy, hearty fare. Their subtle but gorgeous flavors could actually make you think twice about changing your lifestyle. Hopefully only your eating habits!

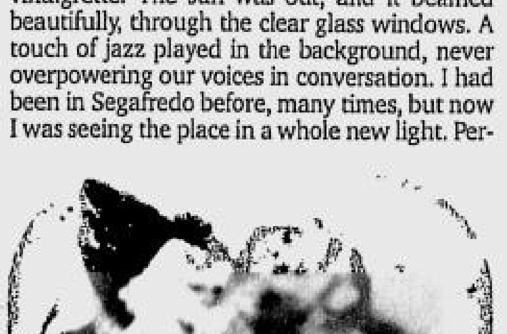
What: Segafredo

Where: Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati City

Business hours: Sundays to Thursdays: 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Weekends: 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

How much: P 350/head (light meals)

Contact: 757-4058



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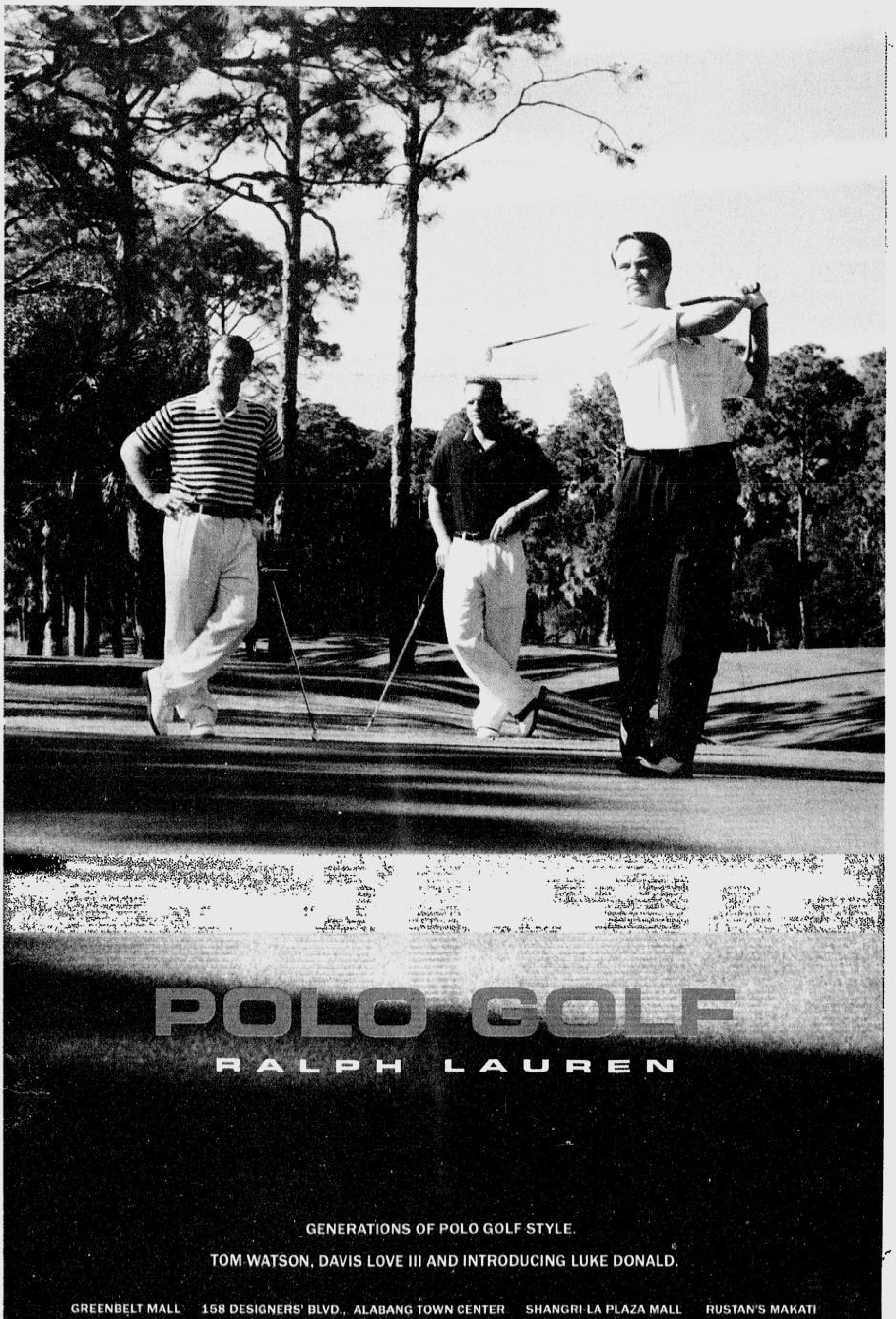

POLO GOLF

RALPH LAUREN

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Experience the pinnacle of living at The

Bask under the open skies after a swim in the open pool, jog around the path, or flex those muscles in the gym, or just enjoy tête-à-têtes with neighbors and their children in the airy gardens. Open, friendly, fun lifestyle, and all these leisurely activities—you can do these and more at the Recreational Club

"A VERTICAL VILLAGE." That's how Abelardo Tolentino of RMJM Philippines describes The Columns, Ayala Avenue, of which he is principal architect.

"So many condominiums have this reputation," Tolentino notes, "of being cold, dark places where people live isolated from each other and cut off from the world." The Columns, he says, "is designed to change that reputation."

"We want to pick and choose features and amenities that in themselves have value but when put all together creates a singular experience," says RMJM's Freddie Grageda. He calls it, simply, The Columns experience. "We want to create a situation that encourages the development of a true community," says Grageda.

The Recreational Club

The Recreational Club at the seventh floor of The Columns, Ayala Avenue is an organic whole. It's more than a collection of amenities. In its three phases, it provides areas for the health and well-being of its residents, young and not so young, physical and holistic, in privacy and in community.

According to Tolentino, "The Recreational Club is laid out so that those who wish for privacy can have it, while openly encouraging residents to get to know each other, creating friendships and opportunities for business, activities, and personal growth."

The Recreational Club provides amenities at the scale and level of a country club or village park. Which is exactly what it is. And access to this country club is a given to any unit owner or tenant at The Columns. Says Community Innovations Inc's (CII) Edwin Yabut, "For the cost of a studio, one-bedroom, or two-bedroom unit, you get the equivalent of a club membership, free."

Wind and water

In Chinese feng shui, gently flowing water both attracts prosperity, and wards away misfortune. Under the influence of Tower I, The Columns' pool facilities integrate flowing water with its relaxing, magical properties with the design and features of a resort pool or swimming club.

The two pools at The Columns, Ayala Avenue sport a curvilinear design inspired by lagoon-style pools found at tourist resorts. At one end, a unique water lounge allows swimmers to relax and stretch out while water flows around them.

A cascade waterfall links the main pool to the children's pool. An adult by the main pool can watch over children playing in the children's pool due to the main pool's raised design.

As the towers of The Columns catch the evening breeze, the palms rustle and sway around the pool, creating an ambience both rustic and restful. The constantly flowing water from the spouts in the water lounge and the cascade waterfall between the two pools creates a continuous aural backdrop of serenity. The sound of gently flowing water soothes the mind and body.

Working out, playing hard

Walking indoors from the pool, beneath the columns of the sold-out Tower I, is the fitness center. The fitness center at The Columns, Ayala Avenue is located in a bright, air-conditioned room overlooking the Ayala-Sen. Gil Puyat intersection. Large windows allow a seventh-floor view of the intersection and the Makati skyline.

The gym features a weight training circuit and free weight racks as well as cardiovascular machines and an aerobics stage. Use of the fitness center is free to residents. "It's the equivalent of a gym membership, included with the cost of unit ownership," says Yabut.

The fitness center's double-height ceiling blends into the second-floor game room, which overlooks the gym and stands above the aerobics stage. The game room, whose windows overlook Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue facing the RCBC Plaza, is outfitted for darts, pool, billiards, foosball, and other indoor games. A video game station would provide access to one o
tems, such as PlayS
Cube.

The game room
home-theatre room
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Gatherings

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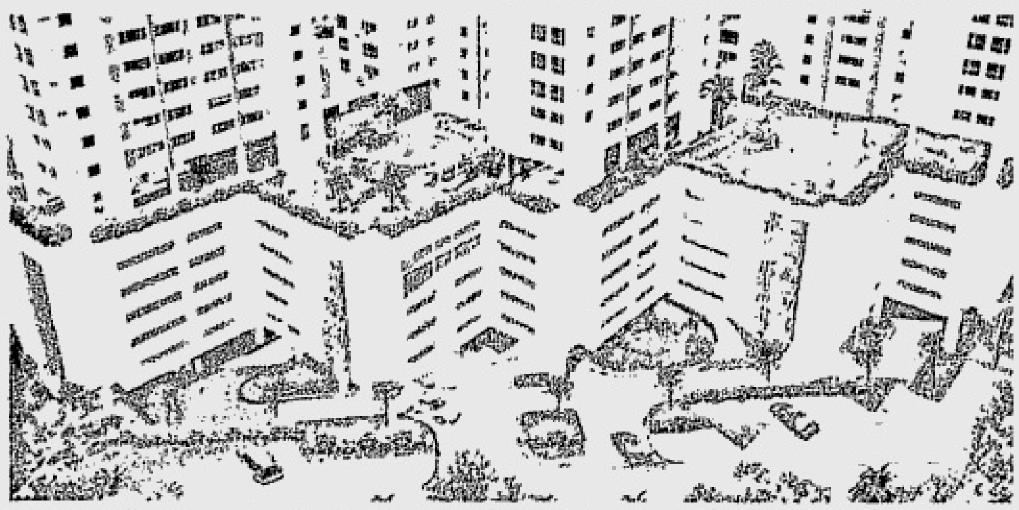
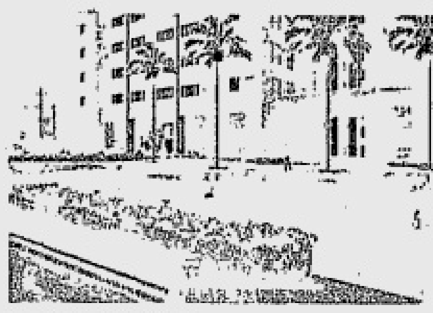


ARTIST'S bird's-eye sketch of the Recreational Club. Soon, such luxuries will be real for residents of The Columns



WATERS THAT SOOTHE
Enjoy the two pools and the magnificent view of miniature falls and all that liquid movement from water lounges.

Charmed by The

Meet these achievers who are all smitten by the perfect location, amenities, reputation of The Columns

THE COLUMNs, Ayala Avenue sold out its first tower within four months. That success continues with Tower II. Achievers who value its mix of location, amenities, value and investment opportunity, have flocked to The Columns from Day One.

Ricky Barba and Danie Largo typify the young and dynamic urban achievers who want to be near it all. Ricky works as a consultant for an international financial organization, while Danie is connected with a prestigious consumer company.

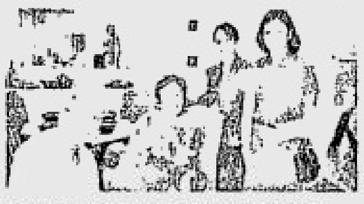
Although they had also invested in another property by the same developer eight months ago, they said they didn't let this chance pass by. Living in such a perfect environment was just too irresistible.

The two say the Tower I studio unit they bought was their first investment together.

"We both travel a lot. I'm thinking that we might be living for long periods of time in other countries. We really don't need a house to maintain. At the same time, at least we have something that we could go home to and we could lock up whenever we leave," says Ricky.

Looking forward to enjoying the unit themselves, the two say the unit "could serve as a transit house, a halfway home for us."

"Even if in the future we would build a house, I think we would still keep the unit at The Columns because it's near everything," says Danie.



MR and Mrs. Cora Jacob, MS. Angela De Villa-Lacson - President of Community Innovations, Ms. Cecille Taningco - Property Specialist

Project believer

Cora Jacob is an internationally acclaimed fashion designer and founder of the Cora Cares Foundation Inc., an organization involved in creating unique and beautiful handbags made by out-of-school youths. Realizing that The Columns was an Ayala property, Cora says she believed in the project right away.

"The name Ayala helped me make a quick decision. It is a very prestigious company, and a very good investment," says Cora.

When she saw the model units of The Columns on exhibit at Glorietta 3, she was convinced in buying a one-bedroom unit in Tower I.

She says she can now ask her professional partners to stay there and no
places to stay when they visit the Philippines.

MELLISSA and Onofre Avellanosa, Raymond Domingo, CII sales manager; Sonny Mendiola, CII assistant sales manager

The price-location com

Onofre and Melissa Avellar
ried couple who enjoy the
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into The Columns' walking-de
right on Ayala Avenue. "It's pe
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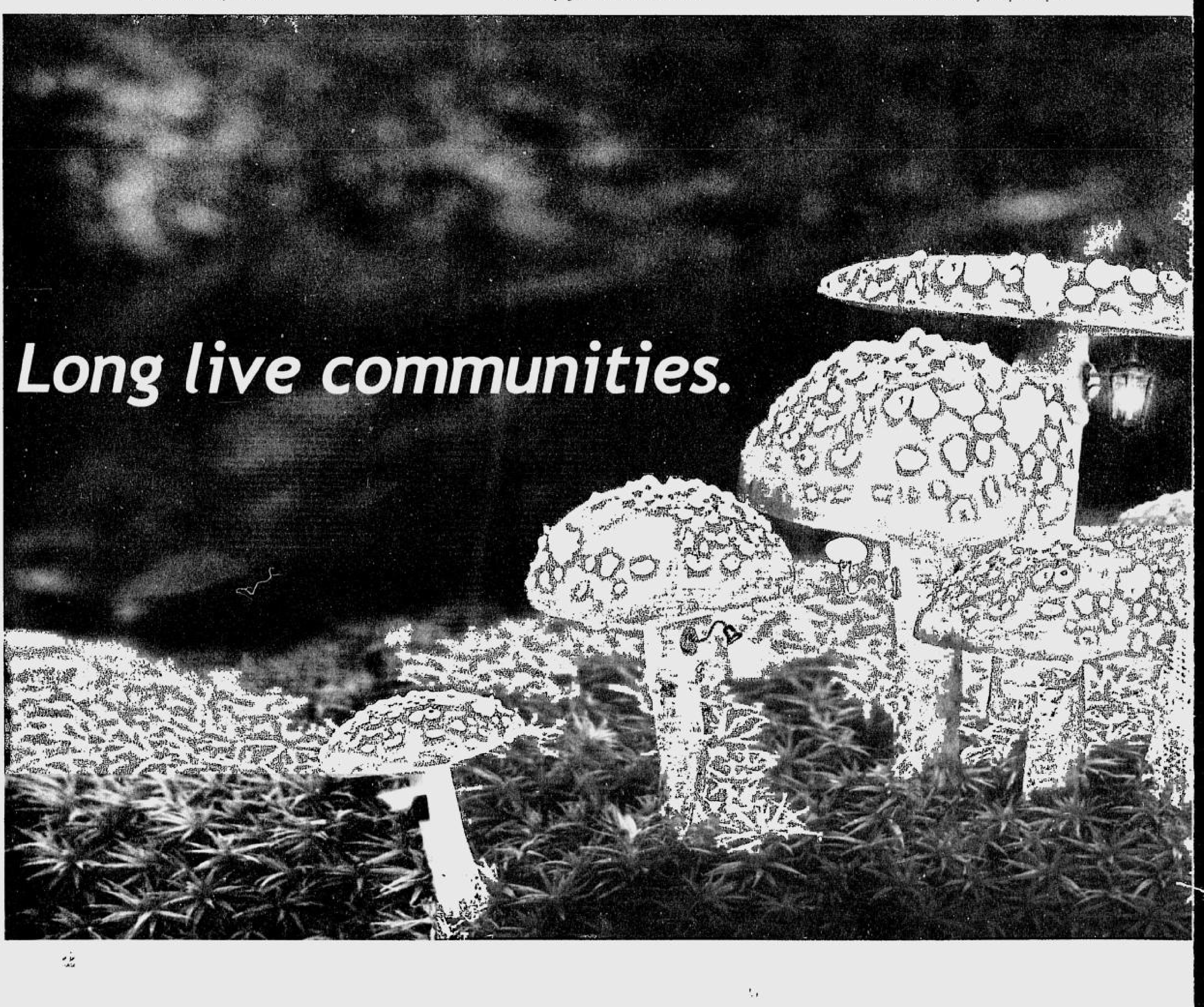
The Avellanosas find the amenities that come with their Tower II ur
have. "We can think about exercise we wouldn't normally do," they say,
convenience of the fitness center. Like the others, they find the day care ce
ful solution to parents with young children, and are very positive on the
true sense of community in the place they live.



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Columns

ll the main gaming sys-
tion, Xbox, and Game-

so contains a separate
housing of a large-
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und seating for a small

indoors and out

Tower II is the Columns,
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is designed to host every-
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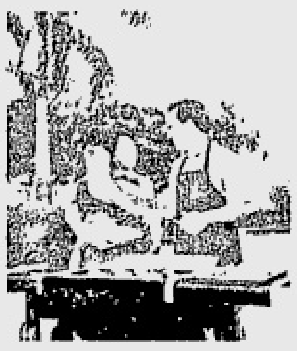
THE RECREATIONAL club is for the children too. The Day Care area is where residents can feel their children are safe and having fun.

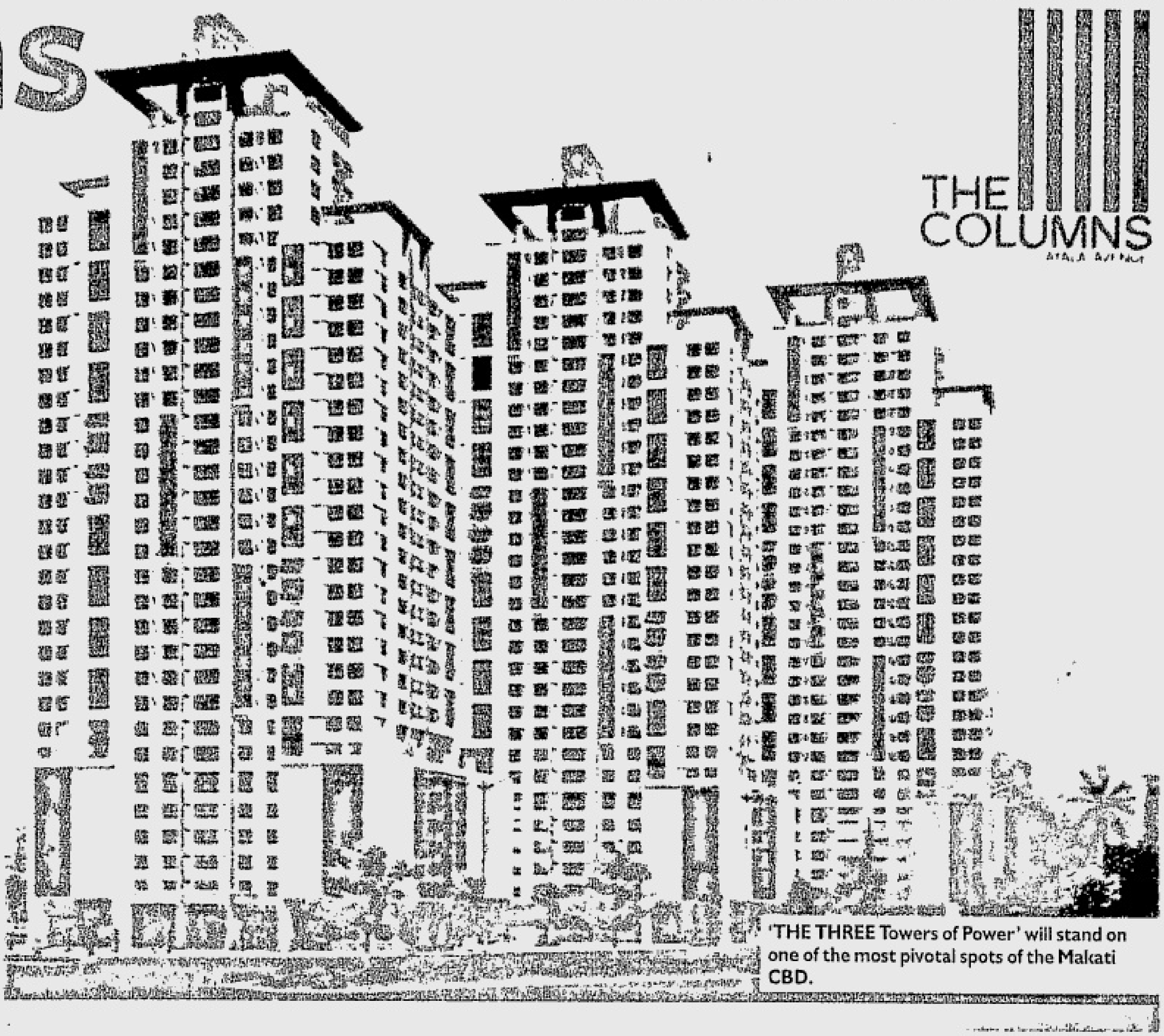
and raise their children.

"We know that many of our customers will have young children," says CII executive Jonathan Umali, "and we want to create a private area where residents can feel their children are safe, active, and having fun."

Putting it together

At The Columns, Ayala Avenue, amenities are more than just a checklist of features, but a coherent whole designed to invigorate the vertical village. The Recreational Club is a defining aspect of what CII and RMJM call the Columns experience. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is a visible, affordable refuge from the harshness of urbanity. Owning a unit means owning that experience. It might be the best deal in town.




'THE THREE Towers of Power' will stand on one of the most pivotal spots of the Makati CBD.

Columns

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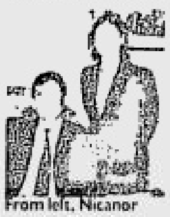
The Columns, say the Avellanosas, are the right match of location, features, and price. "It fits our status" as young urban achievers, they say, where price "is an important consideration." That affordability, matched with the Ayala Avenue address and thoughtful amenities, make them very excited about moving in.


From left, Nicanor Agon with property specialist, May Perez

At home near work

Count Nicanor Agon as one of the growing number of executives, professionals, and achievers who have chosen The Columns, Ayala Avenue as their Makati home.

Agon is senior vice president at Siemens, Inc. in charge of the Power Transmission and Distribution division. He chose The Columns, Ayala Avenue due to its location, at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue.

Agon was attracted "specifically to the location, as The Columns is very close to the Siemens offices."

He notes that The Columns' location, which is one of the main selling points of the development, is "strategic as it is located in the heart of Makati City."

MYLENE Lubiano Takase with property specialist, Maricel Mendiola

He adds, "The location, the prestige that goes with the investment, and of course the credibility" of the developer, Ayala Land company Community Innovations, Inc., were overwhelmingly attractive factors in his decision.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue also boasts a uniquely synergized array of amenities designed to work together to provide a complete "club" experience. Nicanor opines that these amenities are "world-class." Of the units at The Columns, Agon notes their perfect area for his needs, saying that his new 1-bedroom will be "definitely my alternate house" by the time of completion. He was pleased to find The Columns "affordable," considering the convenience and quality offered.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, says Nicanor, is "the right investment." Asked if he's looking forward to moving in, he is unequivocal. "Definitely!"

Sensing sound business opportunity

Mylene Lubiano-Takase is also an entrepreneur. Between her successful store and her Skinrebourne spa salon, she knows a good business opportunity when she sees one. The Columns, for her, promises to be a good investment both as a residence and as a business.

"Business wise, (the location) is good," says Mylene. She calls the amenities "great," and says that the amenities combined with CII's Ayala roots excited her as a purchase.

Among the amenities, she is particularly pleased by the gym and the day care center, calling both "very important." The gym's location, an elevator ride away from her Tower II unit, pleased Mylene with its convenience, while the day care center appealed to her as a mother.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the most talked-about property in the Makati CBD today. Three 30-story towers house studio, 1-bedroom, and 2-bedroom units designed with quality and affordability in mind. A seven-story podium enclosing parking and lobbies incorporates al-fresco dining in a destination-class ground floor, while the seventh story boasts of a meticulously-designed Recreational Club offering resort-style amenities free to every resident.

Flexibly priced and appealing to the exciting demographic of young urban achievers, The Columns, Ayala Avenue sold out Tower I in less than four months with Tower II looking to follow suit. The choice of the urban professional, The Columns is developed by Community, Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land company.

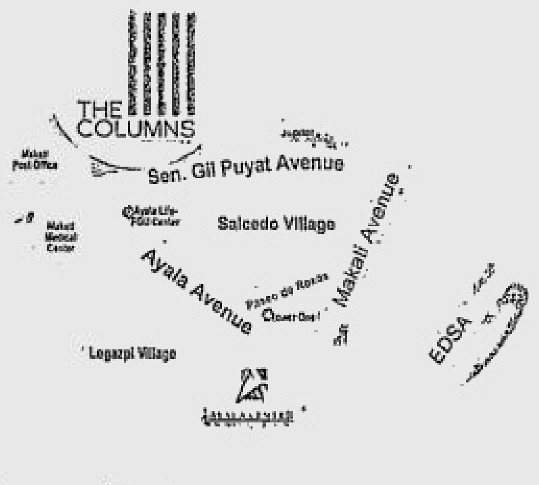
COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

Community Innovations, Inc.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

From the start, one vision has driven us. To build living, breathing communities.

Community Innovations, Inc. is a subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc., the country's leading and most experienced real estate developer. Our passion lies in building carefully-planned and meticulously designed communities.



BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Our first project was Verdana Homes, a 25-hectare subdivision located 10 minutes away from Alabang Town Center and Ayala Alabang. Developed for young urban achievers, Verdana Homes has become a milestone in our continuing quest for success.

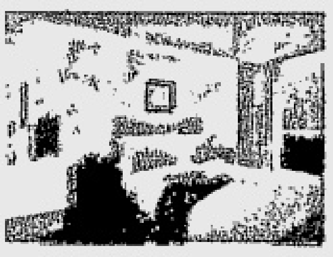
A promise of a friendly, warm and safe environment where families feel perfectly at home. Verdana Homes' lots and house & lot units were fully sold out mere months after they went on the market.

THREE TOWERS, THE NEXT STEP

Then early this year, we embarked on a brand-new venture – a three tower condominium complex strategically located on Makati's central business district. The Columns, Ayala Avenue.

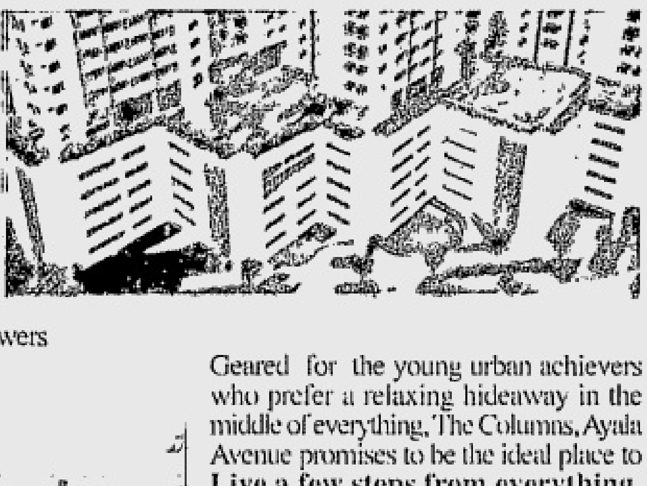
The Columns, Ayala Avenue, our answer to an affordable urban residence with a first-class address, is rising at the corner of Ayala and Sen Gil J. Puyat (Buendia) Avenues.

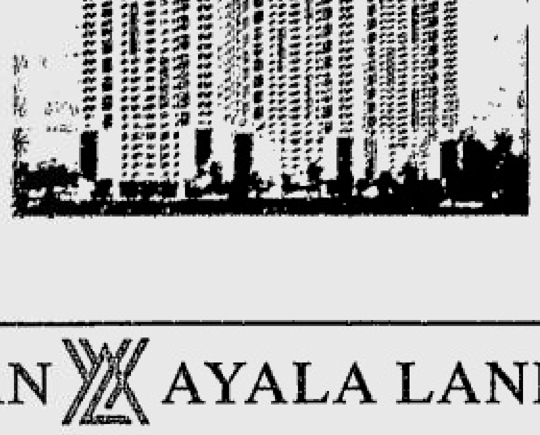
Each of the towers will have 30 storeys. The towers are united by a continuous podium deck which features two swimming pools, function rooms and patio, a gym, a game room, a day care center, even a jogging path.



The ground level will house an inviting mix of landscaped plazas and a row of cafes with al fresco dining, ideal for unwinding after a busy day's work.

The Columns is truly a sought-after community. Its first tower fully sold out in months of pre-selling, with the second tower more than halfway to duplicating that success.





Geared for the young urban achievers who prefer a relaxing hideaway in the middle of everything, The Columns, Ayala Avenue promises to be the ideal place to **Live a few steps from everything.**

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

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Columns

ıll the main gaming sys- ıtion; Xbox, and Game-

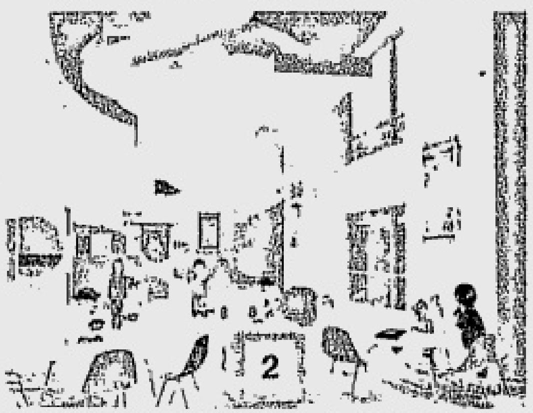
so contains a separate housing of a large- r, and surround sound und seating for a small

indoors and out

Tower II is the Columns, on room. This double- is designed to host every- to costume parties, de- g a hundred people with ty more, up to two hun- into account the outdoor ither side sheltered be- ver II. The function room into two smaller rooms rings, but large or small, ople together. irculate throughout this all sectors of the Recre- signed as a jogging path o be seven stories in the s combine into a quarter- walking area, with exer- fering helpful hints and for a complete outdoor bove the city streets.

n space for children

third of the Recreational ower III is meant for the munity. Perhaps no other rtant for the young fami- rt of the market for The c. These young families er household and one or The Columns recognizes o pursue their personal eers, but also to care for and raise their children.

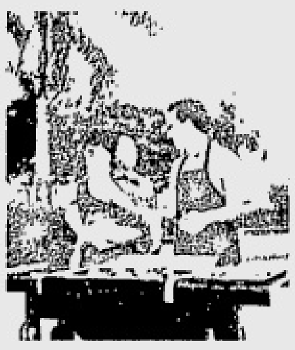


THE RECREATIONAL club is for the children too. The Day Care area is where residents can feel their children are safe and having fun.

"We know that many of our customers will have young children," says CII executive Jonathan Umali, "and we want to create a private area where residents can feel their children are safe, active, and having fun."

Putting it together

At The Columns, Ayala Avenue, amenities are more than just a checklist of features, but a coherent whole designed to invigorate the vertical village. The Recreational Club is a defining aspect of what CII and RMJM call the Columns experience. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is a visible, affordable refuge from the harshness of urbanity. Owning a unit means owning that experience. It might be the best deal in town.



THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE
'THE THREE Towers of Power' will stand on one of the most pivotal spots of the Makati CBD.

Columns

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ination

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The Columns, say the Avellanosas, are the right match of location, features, and price. "It fits our status" as young urban achievers, they say, where price "is an important consideration." That affordability, matched with the Ayala Avenue address and thoughtful amenities, make them very excited about moving in.

From left, Nicanor Agon with property specialist, May Perez

At home near work

Count Nicanor Agon as one of the growing number of executives, professionals, and achievers who have chosen The Columns, Ayala Avenue as their Makati home.

Agon is senior vice president at Siemens, Inc. in charge of the Power Transmission and Distribution division. He chose The Columns, Ayala Avenue due to its location, at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue.

Agon was attracted "specifically to the location, as The Columns is very close to the Siemens offices."

He notes that The Columns' location, which is one of the main selling points of the development, is "strategic as it is located in the heart of Makati City."

MYLENE Lubiano Takase with property specialist, Maricel Mendiola

He adds, "The location, the prestige that goes with the investment, and of course the credibility" of the developer, Ayala Land company Community Innovations, Inc., were overwhelmingly attractive factors in his decision.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue also boasts a uniquely synergized array of amenities designed to work together to provide a complete "club" experience. Nicanor opines that these amenities are "world-class." Of the units at The Columns, Agon notes their perfect area for his needs, saying that his new 1-bedroom will be "definitely my alternate house" by the time of completion. He was pleased to find The Columns "affordable," considering the convenience and quality offered.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, says Nicanor, is "the right investment." Asked if he's looking forward to moving in, he is unequivocal. "Definitely!"

Sensing sound business opportunity

Mylene Lubiano-Takase is also an entrepreneur. Between her successful store and her Skinrebourne spa salon, she knows a good business opportunity when she sees one. The Columns, for her, promises to be a good investment both as a residence and as a business.

"Business wise, (the location) is good," says Mylene. She calls the amenities "great," and says that the amenities combined with CII's Ayala roots excited her as a purchase.

Among the amenities, she is particularly pleased by the gym and the day care center, calling both "very important." The gym's location, an elevator ride away from her Tower II unit, pleased Mylene with its convenience, while the day care center appealed to her as a mother.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the most talked-about property in the Makati CBD today. Three 30-story towers house studio, 1-bedroom, and 2-bedroom units designed with quality and affordability in mind. A seven-story podium enclosing parking and lobbies incorporates al-fresco dining in a destination-class ground floor, while the seventh story boasts of a meticulously-designed Recreational Club offering resort-style amenities free to every resident.

Flexibly priced and appealing to the exciting demographic of young urban achievers, The Columns, Ayala Avenue sold out Tower I in less than four months with Tower II looking to follow suit. The choice of the urban professional, The Columns is developed by Community, Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land company.

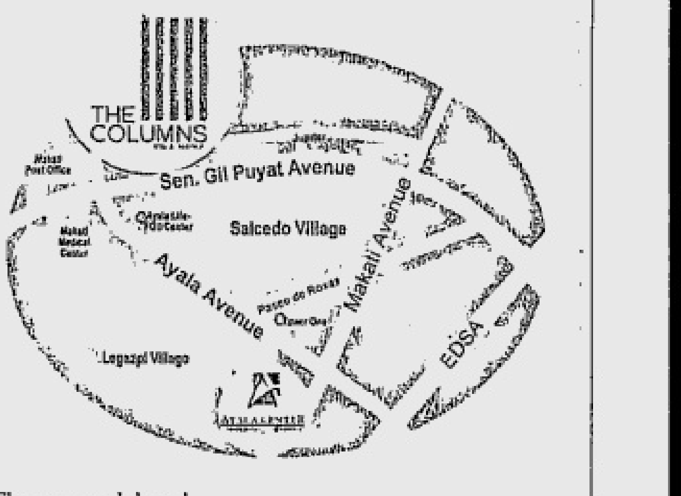
COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

Community Innovations, Inc.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

From the start, one vision has driven us. To build living, breathing communities.

Community Innovations, Inc. is a subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc., the country's leading and most experienced real estate developer. Our passion lies in building carefully-planned and meticulously designed communities.

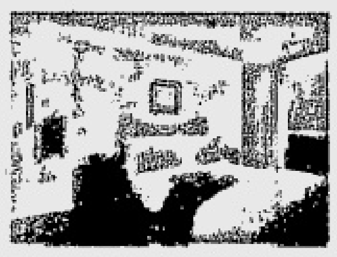


BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Our first project was Verdana Homes, a 25-hectare subdivision located 10 minutes away from Alabang Town Center and Ayala Alabang. Developed for young urban achievers, Verdana Homes has become a milestone in our continuing quest for success.

A promise of a friendly, warm and safe environment where families feel perfectly at home. Verdana Homes' lots and house & lot units were fully sold out mere months after they went on the market.

The ground level will house an inviting mix of landscaped plazas and a row of cafes with al fresco dining, ideal for unwinding after a busy day's work.



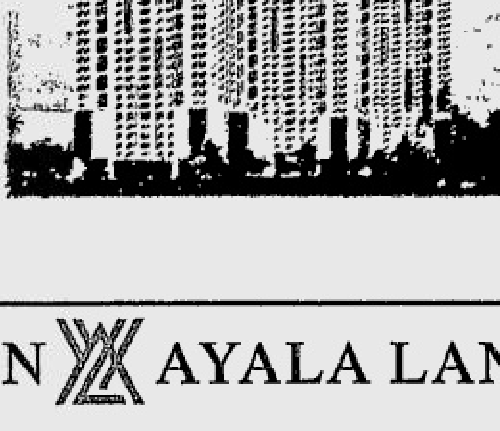
The Columns is truly a sought-after community. Its first tower fully sold out in months of pre-selling, with the second tower more than halfway to duplicating that success.

THREE TOWERS, THE NEXT STEP

Then early this year, we embarked on a brand-new venture – a three tower condominium complex strategically located on Makati's central business district. The Columns, Ayala Avenue.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, our answer to an affordable urban residence with a first-class address, is rising at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil J. Puyat (Buendia) Avenues.

Each of the towers will have 30 storeys. The towers are united by a continuous podium deck which features two swimming pools, function rooms and patio, a gym, a game room, a day care center, even a jogging path.



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THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

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Dining, unwinding just an elevator ride away

A mix of restaurants with al fresco dining found at the Ground Floor makes The Columns a convenient hangout for foodies

WHEN talking about the great location of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, it is often mentioned how close it is to the business heartland of Ayala Avenue and the retail and recreational hubs of Ayala Center. But at its Ground Floor, The Columns also intends to be a destination in itself.

"As a self-sufficient community, our mix of restaurants with al fresco dining are chosen to appeal to the needs and wants of our residents," says Community Innovations Inc's (CII) Jonathan Umali. "At the same time, they will prove attractive to visitors and working professionals in the immediate vicinity and beyond."

"The Columns, Ayala Avenue provides neighborhood living in an urban setting," says Winnie Nazareth of Ayala Land's Commercial Centers Group. "To its residents, it will offer places to dine, entertain, and unwind, whether it be with a cup of coffee in the morning, a quick visit to the grocery in the afternoon, or hanging out with friends after dark. It's a self-contained community where merchants know your name and you know theirs."

"The ground floor offers services for residents, including a grocery store, salon, drugstore, to name a few" says Nazareth. "It will also contain cozy restaurants, outdoor cafes, and quaint food outlets for both residents and employees in the immediate area."

"We expect The Columns to act as a catalyst for the development of its immediate area," says Umali.

Three plazas greet pedestrians to The Columns. The largest of these occupies the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat (formerly Buendia) and serves as a main entrance and landmark, while a pair of twin plazas lines the Buendia side facing the RCBC Plaza. Paved in textured concrete, these plazas will center on two broad *balitbitan* shade trees and gently slope towards the curb.

The design of The Columns invites an al fresco lifestyle. On the seventh floor, the bases of the three towers create sheltering overhangs for meeting places and walks. On the ground floor, the base of the podium itself creates sheltered outdoor lanes where cafes and restaurants will ply their trade.

"The young urban achievers, for whom The Columns is designed, are by and large individuals who value time and convenience," says Nazareth. "They also enjoy going out, having fun, enjoying the fruits of their hard work. The Columns ground floor shops will provide for their daily needs and their social needs as well."

Nazareth envisions a self-contained enclave where residents and merchants develop fruitful business relationships with each other. A resident can make quick trips to the grocery without getting into a car. A parent can meet friends without leaving the children unattended. A person would be able to wake up, comb their hair, and take an elevator down to their favorite café to have a cup of coffee on Sunday morning, or have the grocery and deliver it to their unit.

"Condominiums have a reputation for being cold, dark, isolated places to live a lifestyle," notes Nazareth. "The Columns will change that reputation. It allows you to life a lifestyle without compromise."

Designed by RMJM Philippines, The Columns, Ayala Avenue brings the good life to the young urban achievers of the Makati CBD. Three 23-story residential towers rise on a seven-story podium at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, with amenities and features that encourage the growth of a true community. With its first tower and podium under construction and having reached the halfway mark in total unit sales, The Columns, Ayala Avenue marks another milestone for its developer, Community Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land company.

THE GROUND Floor Plaza

THE LOBBY

CII offers special pricing plan for as low as P13,000/mo

Seize the opportunity and enter into the good life at The Columns, Ayala Avenue. Avail yourself of special Zero Downpayment schemes

COMMUNITY Innovations Inc. (CII) announces a special payment scheme for The Columns, Ayala Avenue starting this month to mark the continuing success of the residential condominium complex.

This special offer commemorates the success of The Columns, Ayala Avenue, which passed the halfway mark in sales in just eight months. Tower One of the three-tower complex sold out in almost four months.

CII is now offering units of Tower Two. Buyers who wish to seize the opportunity to enter into the good life at The Columns, Ayala Avenue can now avail themselves of special Zero Downpayment schemes, with monthly payments as low as P13,000.

This zero-down payment scheme is designed to complement The Columns' already affordable standard payment schemes, which make The Columns' enviable mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units within reach of young urban achievers and their families.

Payment schemes can be customized to suit the needs and abilities of individual buyers, part of CII's commitment to creating and nurturing true communities in its developments.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the answer to the dreams of young urban achievers seeking a quality condominium residence within the Makati CBD. Sporting three 30-story towers and a uniquely integrated show-stopping Recreational Club, The Columns, Ayala Avenue is one of the most talked-about properties in town.

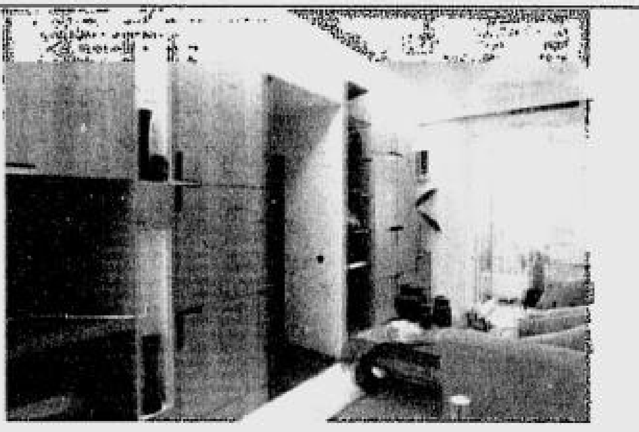
Community Innovations, Inc. is dedicated to providing carefully-planned and meticulously-designed communities. An Ayala Land company, CII backs its bold mission with the experience and reputation of Ayala Land as the country's leading developer.

Designers of The Columns, Ayala Avenue have described the emerging community as "a vertical village." The Recreational Club of The Columns, Ayala Avenue is more than a conglomeration of amenities. It provides areas for the health and well-being of residents, in privacy and in community.

The Recreational Club provides features that are the equivalent of those in a country club or posh recreational center. For the cost of a studio, a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom, the owners of The Columns, Ayala Avenue units gain a major plus that is the equivalent of a club membership.

For inquiries, call 750-0471 or 750-0484, e-mail cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph

One bedroom upstairs.



And downstairs, cafes to unwind in, al fresco dining places to entertain friends, and Zen-themed plazas to calm you down.

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE

The Columns, Ayala Avenue, a three-tower condominium project that puts you within walking distance of everything in Makati's central business district.

The Columns offer not just the comforts of home. On the ground floor level, it has its own Zen-themed plazas where you can stroll. A row of cafes where you can lounge sipping hot java. And al fresco dining spots where you can meet friends.

Call tel. nos. 750-0484, 750-0471 and 849-0551, e-mail us at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit us at www.communityinnovations.com.ph for more information.

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC
AN AYALA LAND COMPANY

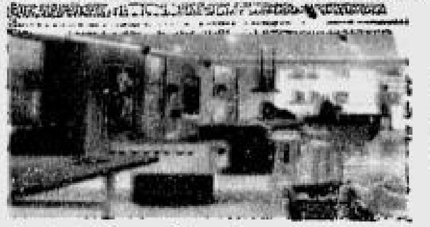
HLURB License to Sell No. 07183 and 06252

NOW SELLING TOWER 2

As low as P13,000 monthly. No downpayment!

Stroll at the ground floor plaza.

Dine al fresco or sip your coffee against a backdrop of green



Find out if your friends got game at the gameroom

The Columns
Ayala Ave. cor Sen. Gil Puyat
Model units are available for viewing at the 3rd floor, Glorietta 3.

THE COLUMNS
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Salcedo Village
Ayala Avenue
Makati Avenue
Legaspi Village
EDSA